

KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • CRABTREE

INVINCIBLE™



VOLUME NINE

OUT OF THIS WORLD



image® COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE™

OUT OF THIS WORLD



CREATED BY
ROBERT KIRKMAN
& **CORY WALKER**

image®



writer
**ROBERT
KIRKMAN**

penciler, inker
**RYAN
OTTLEY**

colorist
**BILL
CRABTREE**

letterer
**RUS
WOOTON**

cover
**RYAN OTTLEY
& BILL CRABTREE**

INVINCIBLE, VOL. 9: OUT OF THIS WORLD. FIRST PRINTING. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704. Image and its logos are © and © 2008 Image Comics Inc. All rights reserved. Originally published in single magazine form as INVINCIBLE #42-47. INVINCIBLE and all character likenesses are ™ and © 2008, Robert Kirkman and Cory Walker. All rights reserved. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of the copyright holder. PRINTED IN CHINA.

ISBN: 978-1-58240-827-9

www.imagecomics.com

IMAGE COMICS, INC.

Erik Larsen - Publisher
Todd McFarlane - President
Marc Silvestri - CEO
Jim Valentino - Vice-President

Eric Stephenson - Executive Director
Joe Keatinge - PR & Marketing Coordinator
Branwyn Bigglestone - Accounts Manager
Paige Richardson - Administrative Assistant
Traci Hui - Traffic Manager
Allen Hui - Production Manager
Drew Gill - Production Artist
Jonathan Chan - Production Artist
Monica Garcia - Production Artist



CHAPTER ONE



Ryan

NO, SO FAR EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL. NOTHING'S HAPPENED-- NOT EVEN A MINOR SET BACK. LAST TIME I TALKED TO THE ASTRONAUTS, AT LEAST--THINGS WERE RUNNING SMOOTHLY AND RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.

WELL, JUST KEEP AN EYE ON THEM. THIS IS A DANGEROUS MISSION--THAT'S WHY YOU'RE THERE.

I KNOW WHY I'M HERE. IF THEY LOSE CONTAINMENT--I HELP THE ASTRONAUTS INTO THE ESCAPE POD AND ZIP THEM BACK TO EARTH BEFORE THEY RUN OUT OF AIR. IT'S SIMPLE, CECIL-- THIS IS EASY.

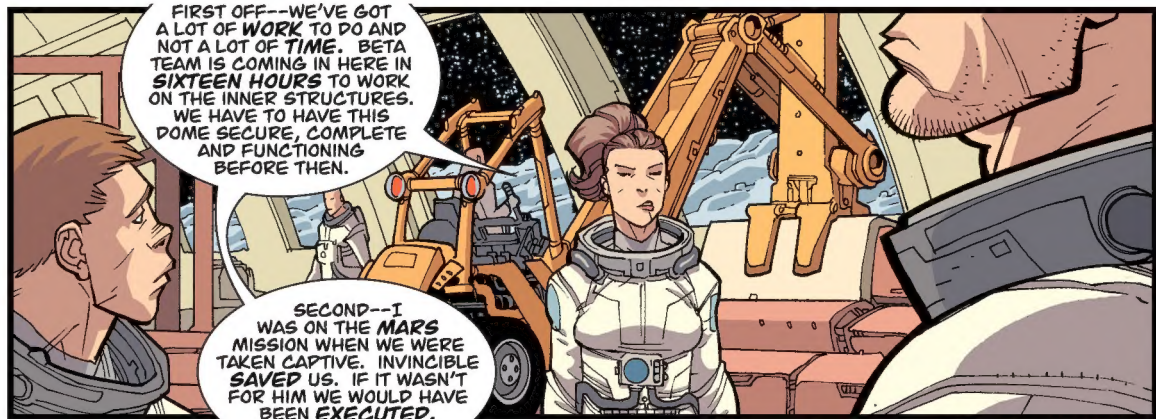
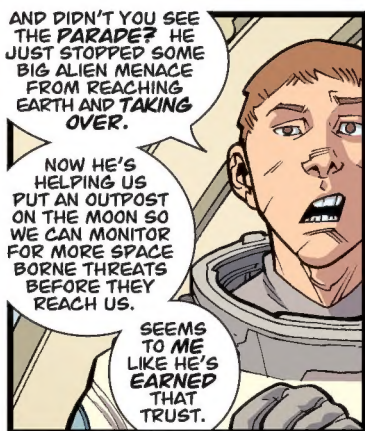
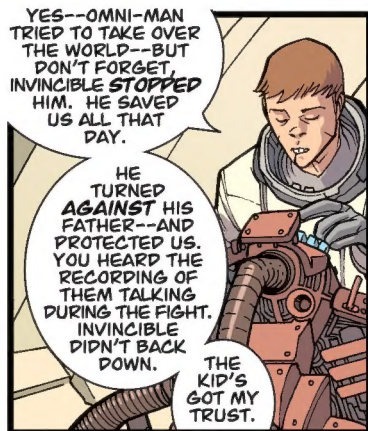
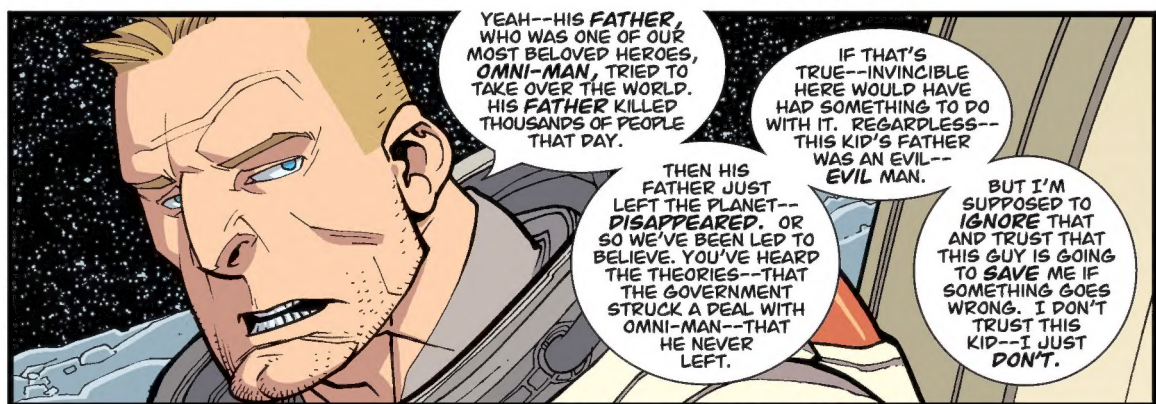
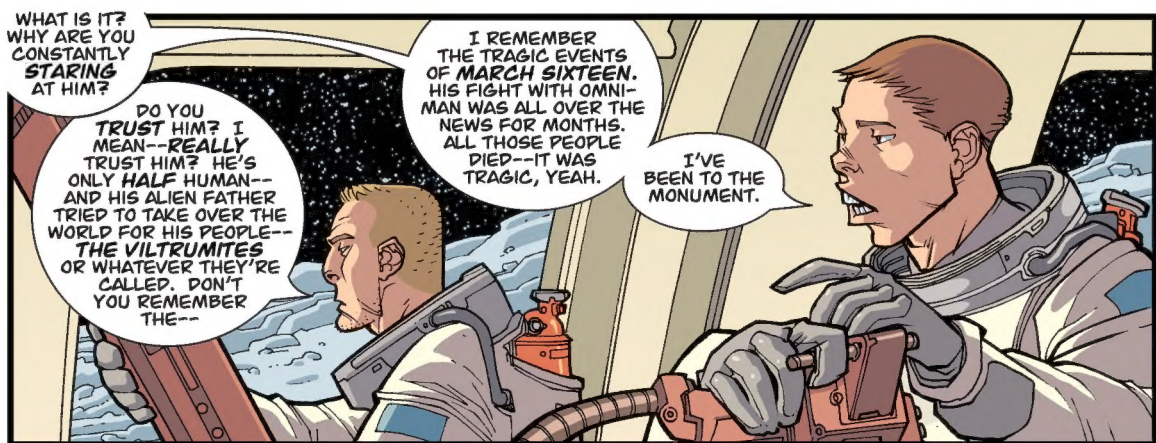
I AM STANDING.

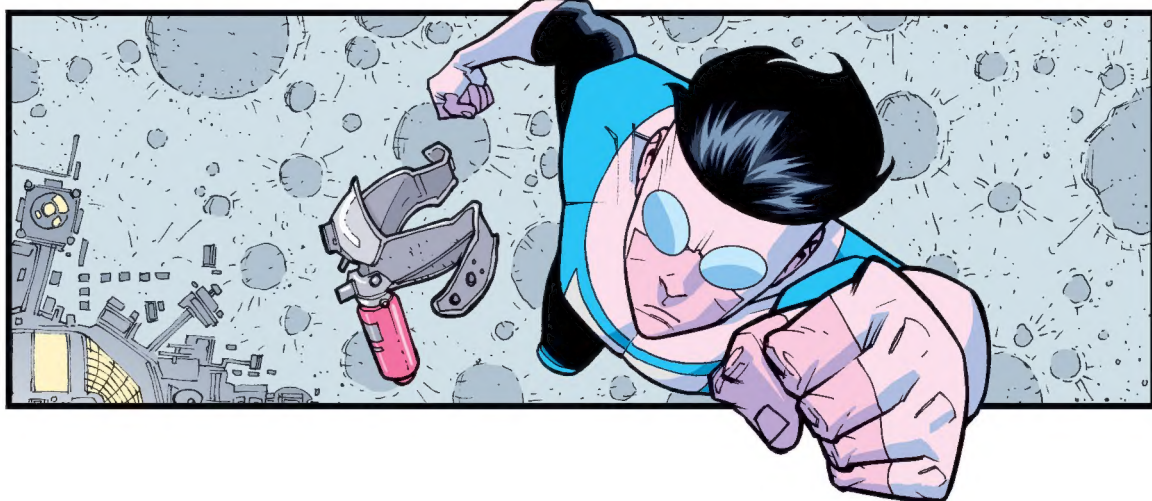
FINE, FINE, FINE.

I CAN SEE YOU, MARK. I'M LOOKING RIGHT AT YOU.

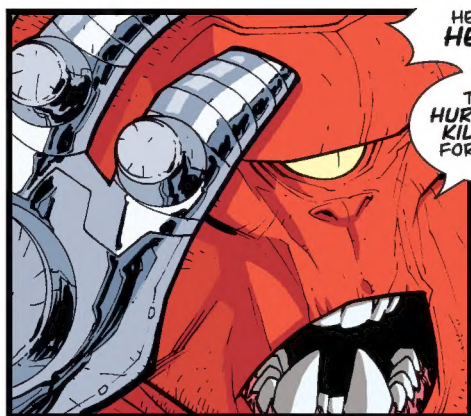
EASY-- RIGHT. JUST KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, WHO KNOWS WHAT'S OUT THERE-- AND FOR GOD'S SAKE-- AT LEAST STAND UP AND ACT LIKE YOU'RE READY TO SAVE THEM IF SOMETHING DOES GO WRONG.











HEY--
HEY!!

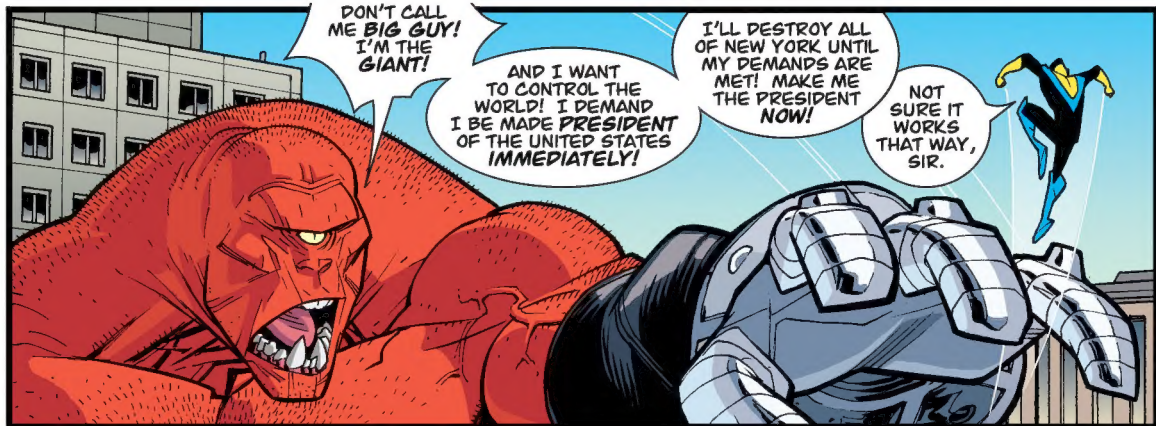
THAT
HURT! I'LL
KILL YOU
FOR THAT!



FORGIVE ME IF
I DON'T STAND
STILL TO PROVIDE
YOU THE
OPPORTUNITY.

ANYWAY--
WHAT GIVES,
BIG GUY?!
WHERE'VE YOU
BEEN HIDING
AND WHAT IS
IT YOU'RE
AFTER?!

YOU'RE
CAUSING ALL
KINDS OF
TROUBLE!



DON'T CALL
ME **BIG GUY!**
I'M THE
GIANT!

AND I WANT
TO CONTROL THE
WORLD! I DEMAND
I BE MADE **PRESIDENT**
OF THE UNITED STATES
IMMEDIATELY!

I'LL DESTROY ALL
OF NEW YORK UNTIL
MY DEMANDS ARE
MET! MAKE ME
THE **PRESIDENT**
NOW!

NOT
SURE IT
WORKS
THAT WAY,
SIR.



I **PROMISE** THAT
IF YOU DESTROY ALL
OF NEW YORK THE
ONLY THING WE'LL
BE MAKING YOU
IS **DEAD!**

HE'S
NOT KIDDING--
I SUGGEST
A **HASTY**
SURRENDER.



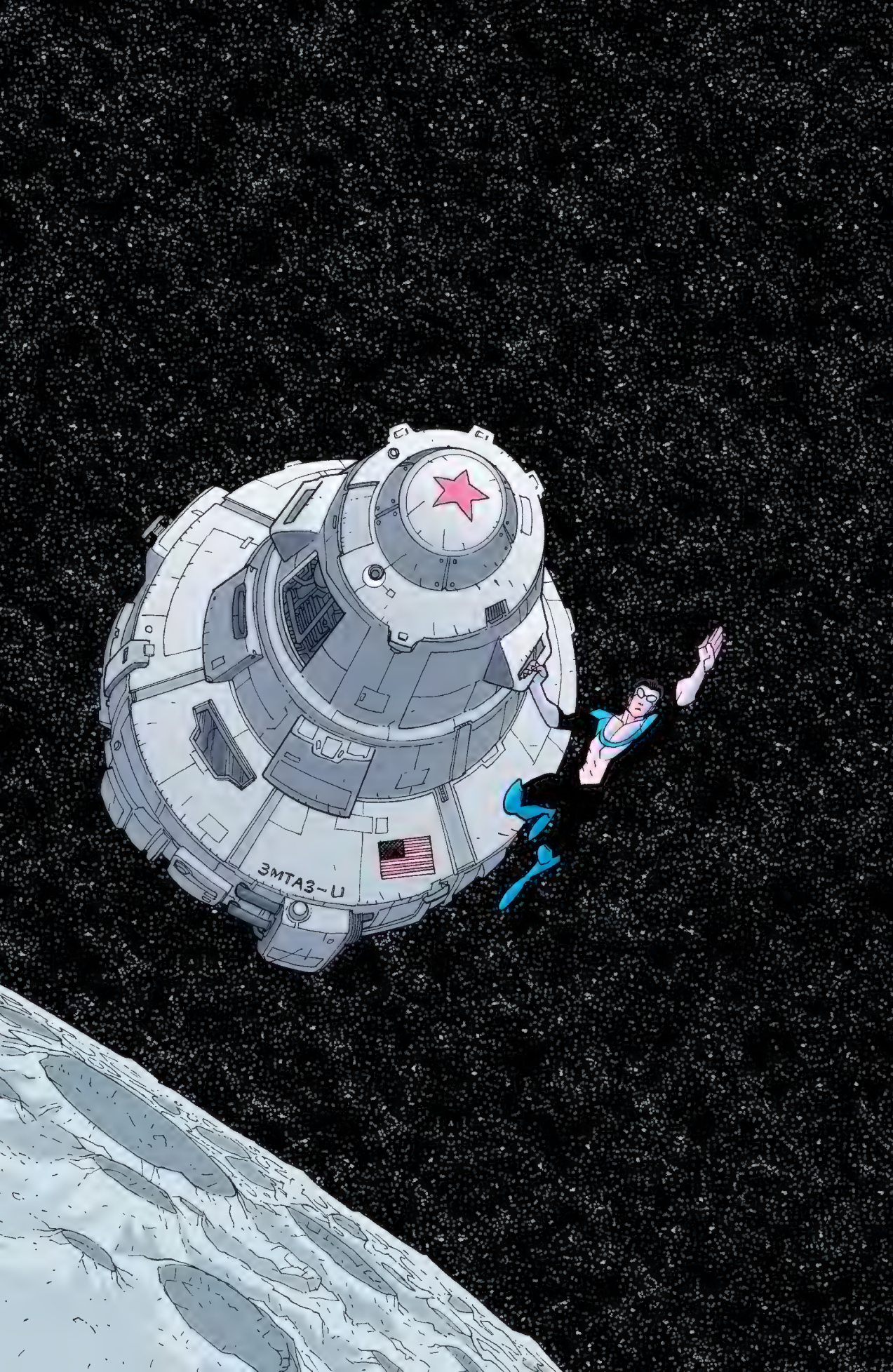
THIS GUY'S
OBVIOUSLY NOT
ALL HERE, FOLKS--
I DON'T THINK
KILLING HIM
IS--

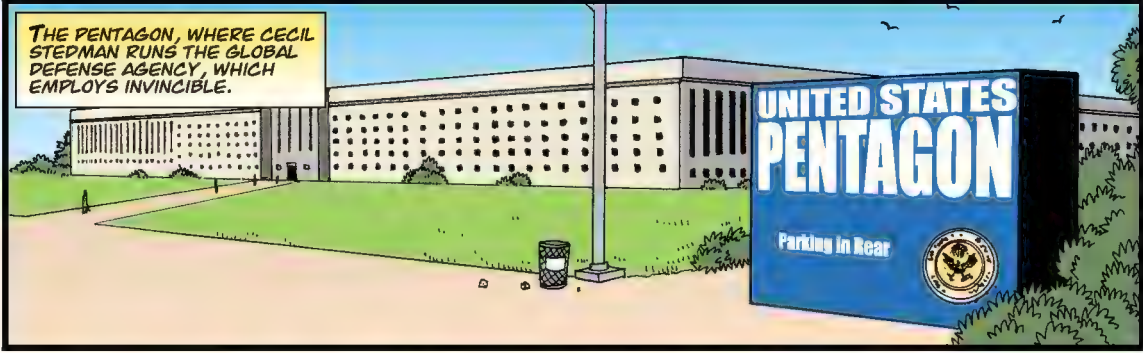
LET THE
GUARDIANS
WRAP THIS
ONE UP, MARK--
I NEED YOU
IN **SPACE**--
QUICK!



SPACE?
WHAT
FOR?

OH--OH,
YEAH!





THE PENTAGON, WHERE CECIL STEPMAN RUNS THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY, WHICH EMPLOYS INVINCIBLE.

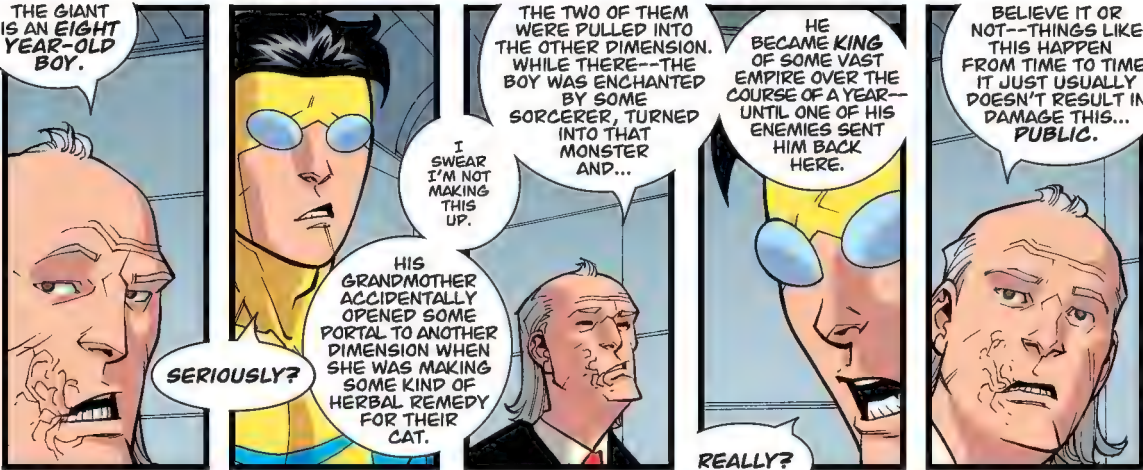


HOW'D THAT BUSINESS WITH THE GIANT GO? DID THE GUARDIANS TAKE HIM DOWN? EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?

WELL--FIFTEEN PEOPLE DIED AND OVER ONE HUNDRED WERE INJURED IN THE WHOLE THING, SO NO--EVERYONE IS NOT ALL RIGHT.

BUT THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE TOOK HIM DOWN. YOU WANT TO HEAR THE REAL KICKER OF THE WHOLE THING?

SURE.



THE GIANT IS AN EIGHT YEAR-OLD BOY.

THE TWO OF THEM WERE PULLED INTO THE OTHER DIMENSION. WHILE THERE--THE BOY WAS ENCHANTED BY SOME SORCERER, TURNED INTO THAT MONSTER AND...

HE BECAME KING OF SOME VAST EMPIRE OVER THE COURSE OF A YEAR--UNTIL ONE OF HIS ENEMIES SENT HIM BACK HERE.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT--THINGS LIKE THIS HAPPEN FROM TIME TO TIME. IT JUST USUALLY DOESN'T RESULT IN DAMAGE THIS... PUBLIC.

I SWEAR I'M NOT MAKING THIS UP.

HIS GRANDMOTHER ACCIDENTALLY OPENED SOME PORTAL TO ANOTHER DIMENSION WHEN SHE WAS MAKING SOME KIND OF HERBAL REMEDY FOR THEIR CAT.

SERIOUSLY?

REALLY?



SPEAKING OF THE PUBLIC...

DON'T BE NERVOUS, KID. YOU'VE DONE A WORLD OF GOOD FOR THESE PEOPLE--AND THEY LOVE YOU FOR IT.

THIS WILL BE EASY.

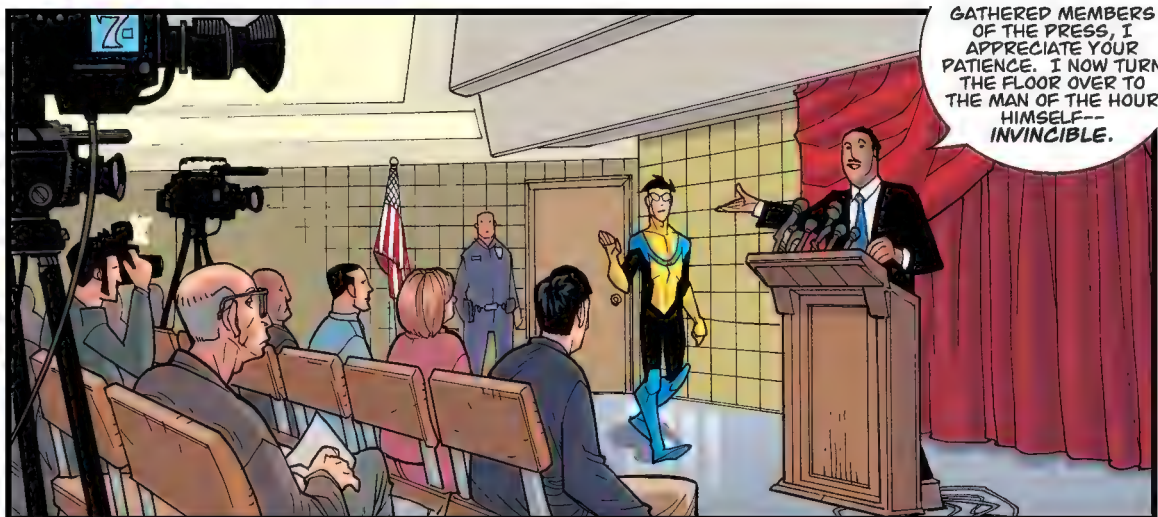
UH... YEAH, ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THIS.

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.

AND, MARK--

YOU DID GOOD TODAY.

THANKS.



GATHERED MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, I APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE. I NOW TURN THE FLOOR OVER TO THE MAN OF THE HOUR HIMSELF-- INVINCIBLE.



YOU'VE BEEN VERY DILIGENT IN YOUR WORK OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, THE INVASION FROM MARS, SAVING THESE ASTRONAUTS TODAY...

IS THERE ANY REASON FOR YOUR INCREASED PUBLIC PROFILE?



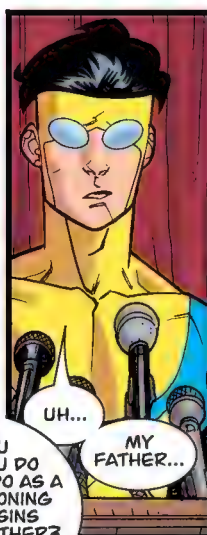
NOT REALLY, NO. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HELPING OUT--DOING MY PART. I GUESS WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING LATELY IS A BIT MORE NEWS-WORTHY?

I DON'T REALLY KNOW.



YOUR FATHER, OMNI-MAN, TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD AND ENSLAVE US ALL-- YOU OPPOSED HIM.

DO YOU THINK YOU DO WHAT YOU DO AS A WAY OF ATONING FOR THE SINS OF YOUR FATHER?



UH...

MY FATHER...



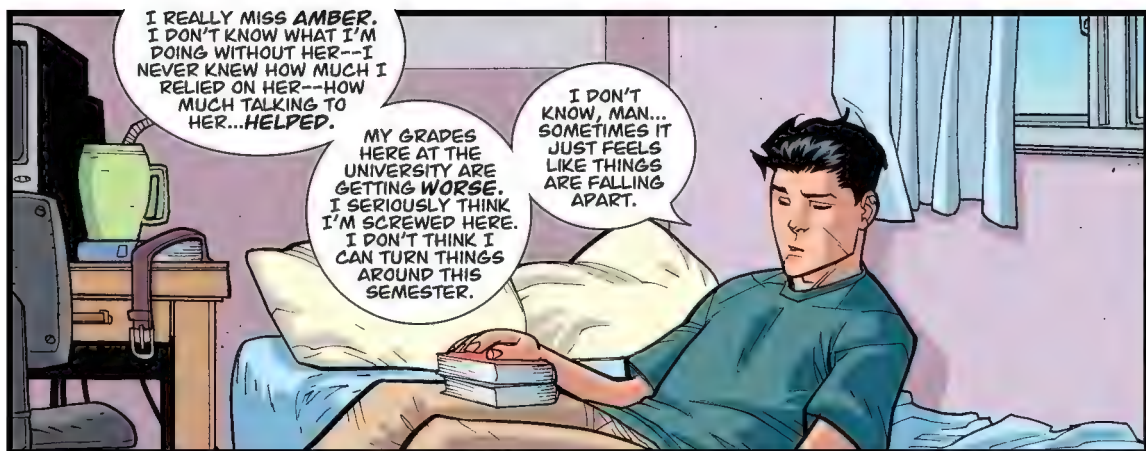
I'M WELL AWARE OF THE HORRIFIC ACTIONS OF MY FATHER. I KNOW WHAT HIS PLANS FOR THIS PLANET WERE-- AND I STOPPED HIM FROM CARRYING THEM OUT.

THE EVENTS OF THAT DAY ARE SOMETHING THAT ARE ALWAYS ON MY MIND. IT'S NOT SOMETHING I'LL EVER FORGET AND IT DOES GUIDE MY ACTIONS TO A CERTAIN EXTENT.

BUT I DO WHAT I DO--NOT AS AN APOLOGY TO THE HUMAN RACE-- OR TO TRY AND ERASE THE ACTIONS OF MY FATHER. I HELP PEOPLE BECAUSE I WANT TO-- BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

I'M ONLY TRYING TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.





I REALLY MISS AMBER. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING WITHOUT HER--I NEVER KNEW HOW MUCH I RELIED ON HER--HOW MUCH TALKING TO HER...HELPED.

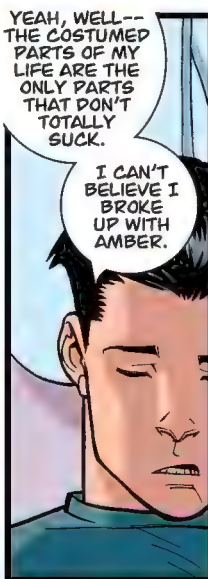
MY GRADES HERE AT THE UNIVERSITY ARE GETTING WORSE. I SERIOUSLY THINK I'M SCREWED HERE. I DON'T THINK I CAN TURN THINGS AROUND THIS SEMESTER.

I DON'T KNOW, MAN... SOMETIMES IT JUST FEELS LIKE THINGS ARE FALLING APART.



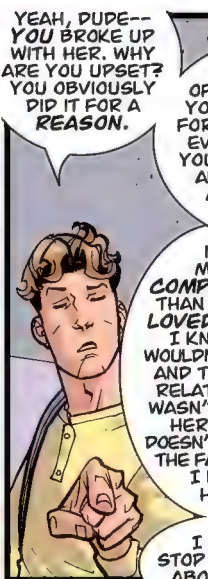
FALLING APART?

YEAH. I SAW YOU ALL OVER THE NEWS TODAY--THAT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE "FALLING APART" TO ME.



YEAH, WELL--THE COSTUMED PARTS OF MY LIFE ARE THE ONLY PARTS THAT DON'T TOTALLY SUCK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I BROKE UP WITH AMBER.

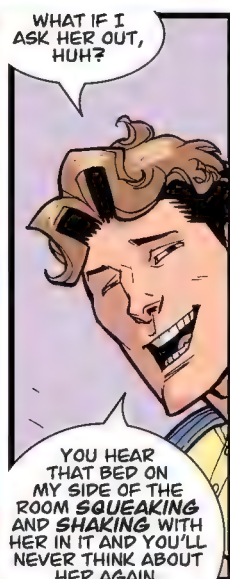


YEAH, DUDE--YOU BROKE UP WITH HER. WHY ARE YOU UPSET? YOU OBVIOUSLY DID IT FOR A REASON.

IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT. I LOVED AMBER. I KNOW WE WOULDN'T LAST--AND THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WASN'T FAIR TO HER BUT IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I LOVE HER.

I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT HER.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, DIDN'T YOU DUMP AMBER FOR MY OLD FLAME, EVE? I THOUGHT YOU'D BE WITH HER ALREADY--WITH AMBER LONG FORGOTTEN.



WHAT IF I ASK HER OUT, HUH?

YOU HEAR THAT BED ON MY SIDE OF THE ROOM **SQUEAKING** AND **SHAKING** WITH HER IN IT AND YOU'LL NEVER THINK ABOUT HER AGAIN.



YEAH--THAT'S ABOUT THAT ABSOLUTE LAST THING I NEED TO HEAR.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THAT I'M OUT OF HERE. I'VE GOT PLENTY OF BETTER THINGS I COULD BE DOING WITH MY TIME.

OH, COME ON, MAN--I WAS JUST TRYING TO HELP.

MARK, HEY--

MARK? WHERE ARE YOU GOING--WHAT'S BETTER THAN HANGING OUT WITH ME?

LATER.

YOU AM
BIG HERO.
OCTOBOSS SEE
YOU IN TELEVISION.
ME AM NOT CARE
HOW LARGE HERO
BE. YOU IS FOOL
AM FACE
OCTOBOSS.

ME DID
NOT INSTIGATE
FIGHT. I MINDING
AM OWN BUSINESS--
KILLING MANY
ENEMIES. NOT YOU--
YOU HAVE NO
REASON AT
ATTACK.

YOU
SOUND
TOTALLY
RETARDED.

ME COME HERE FROM
OTHER WORLD! BEGINNING
AM MISUNDERSTOOD--
SHOUT BUT NOT HEARD. ME
TAKE TIME OFF TO LEARN
LANGUAGE OF ENEMY.
ME PLACE EFFORT
AM TASK.

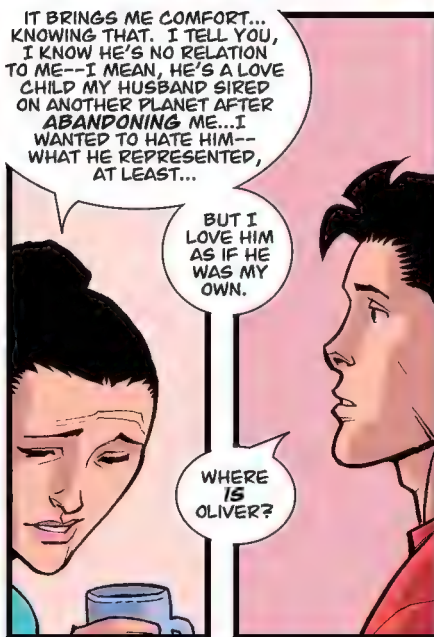
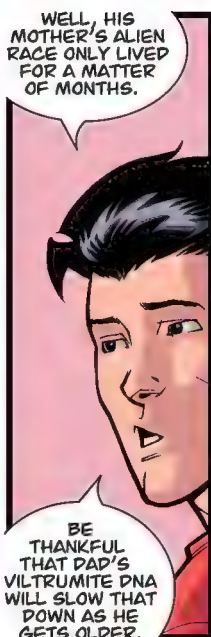
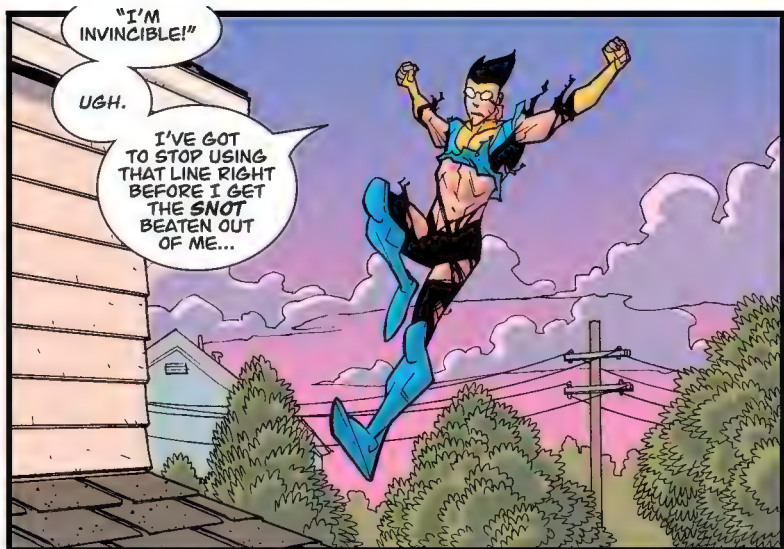
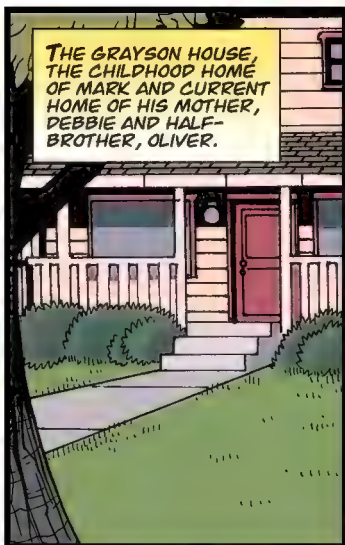
ALL
GET I BE
RIDICULE?!

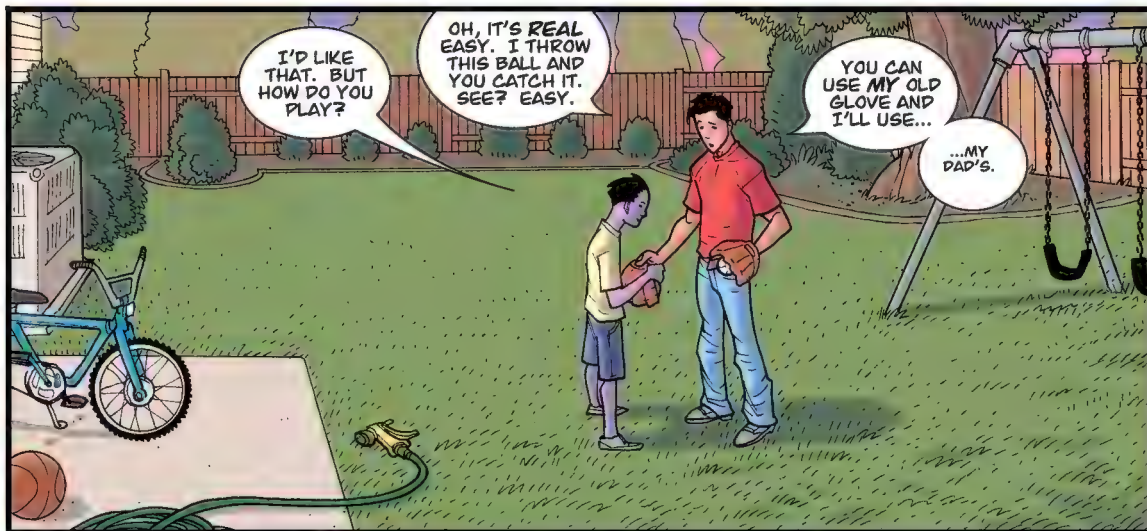
OCTOBOSS
AM KILLING
YOU FOR
INSULT!

YOU'RE
KIDDING,
RIGHT?

DIDN'T
YOU SAY
YOU'VE BEEN
WATCHING
THE NEWS?

I'M
INVINCIBLE!







UM...

I HAVEN'T
TOLD MOM YET.
I WANTED TO
SURPRISE
YOU.

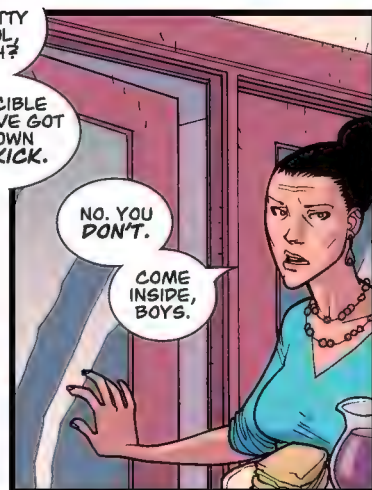
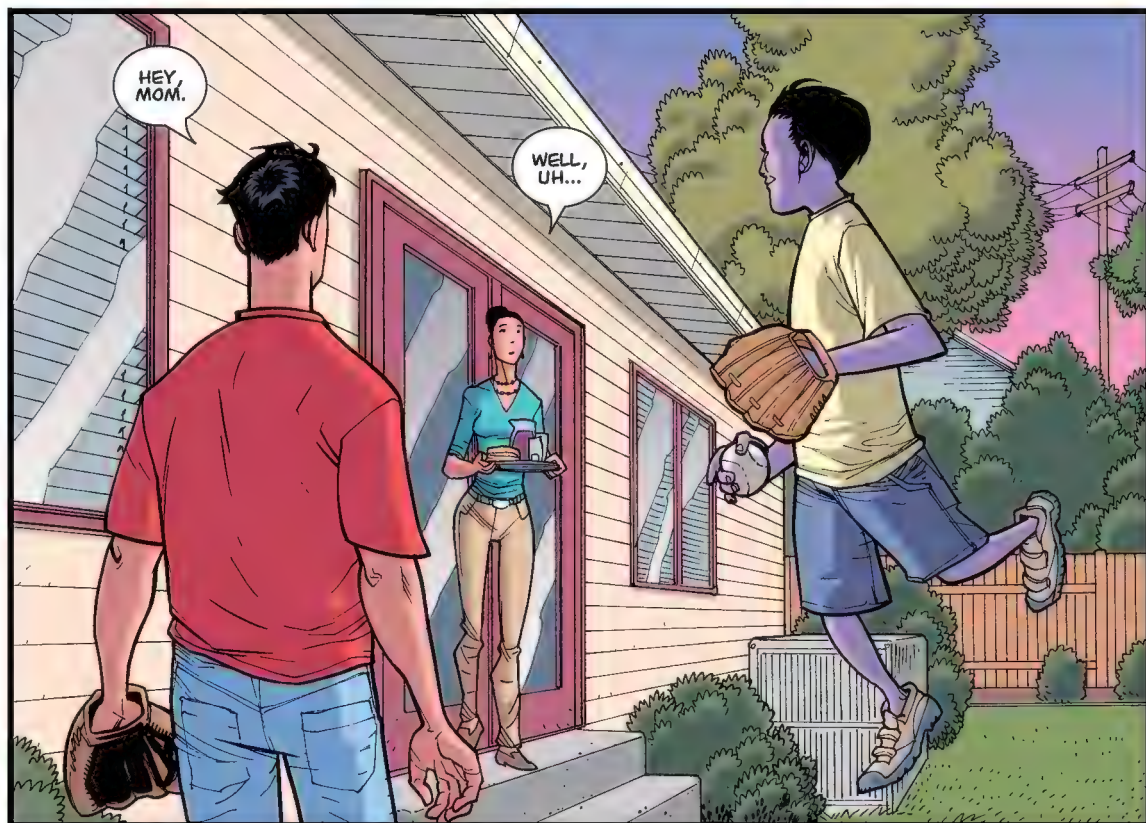
MISSION
ACCOMPLISHED.

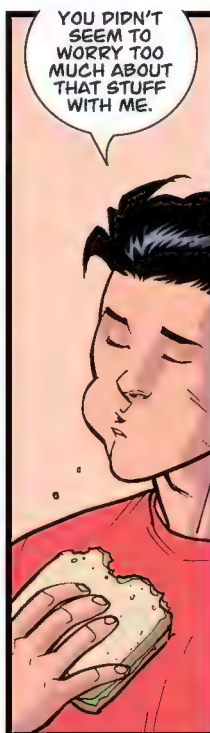
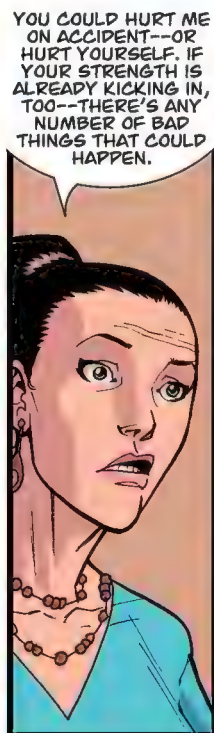
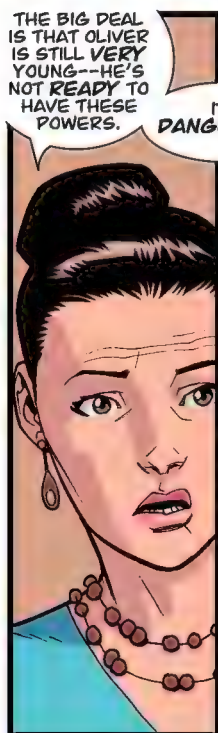
WOW.



CHAPTER TWO



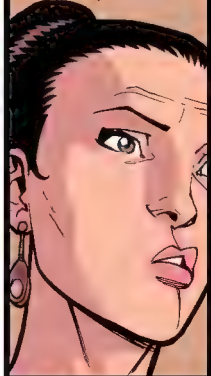




WELL, IF THAT'S ALL IT IS--IF HE JUST NEEDS SOMEONE TO GUIDE HIM AND HELP HIM FIGURE STUFF OUT--I COULD DO THAT.



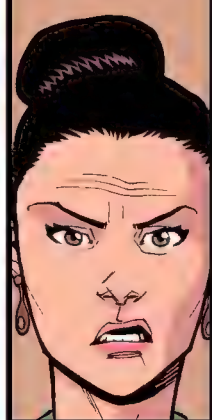
YOU'VE GOT SCHOOL.



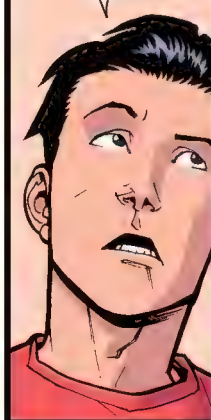
I COULD QUIT SCHOOL.



MARK.



WHAT? WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

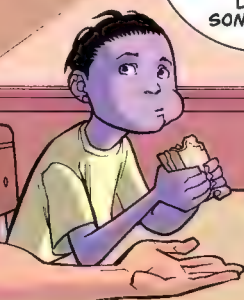
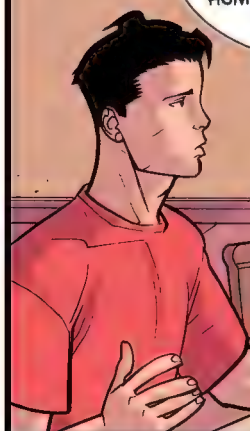


I'M FAILING MOST OF MY CLASSES--I'M JUST NOT DOING WELL AT ALL. I'VE GOT TOO MANY DISTRACTIONS. I NEVER HAVE TIME TO DO MY HOMEWORK. I MISS MORE CLASSES THAN I ATTEND.

AND LET'S FACE IT... I'M TOTALLY WASTING MY TIME THERE. I'M GOING TO COLLEGE--TO BUY TIME--NOT TO LEARN SOMETHING.

WITH MY POWERS I COULD DO ANYTHING AND MAKE A LIVING. WORLD'S FASTEST PIZZA DELIVERY BOY--ANYTHING. CECIL IS ALREADY PAYING ME MORE THAN I COULD EVER MAKE WITH A "REAL" JOB.

YOU KNOW I DON'T REALLY NEED SCHOOL. WHAT--AM I GOING TO BE A DENTIST? WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

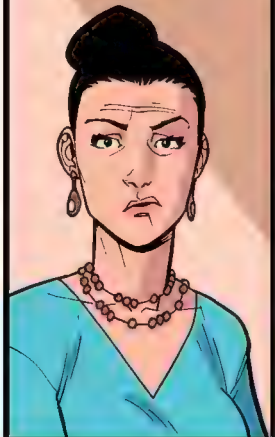


I'D BE BETTER OFF HERE-- TRAINING OLIVER. I COULD MOVE BACK HOME AND EVERYTHING.

I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.

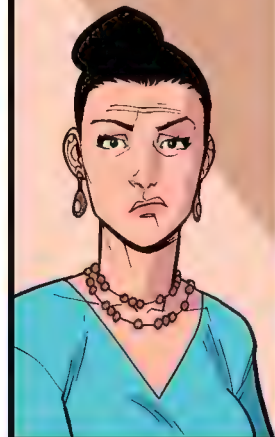
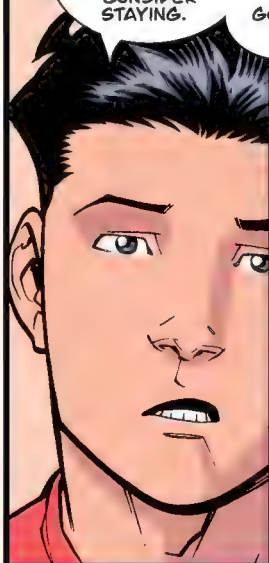


YOU'RE NOT QUITTING SCHOOL.



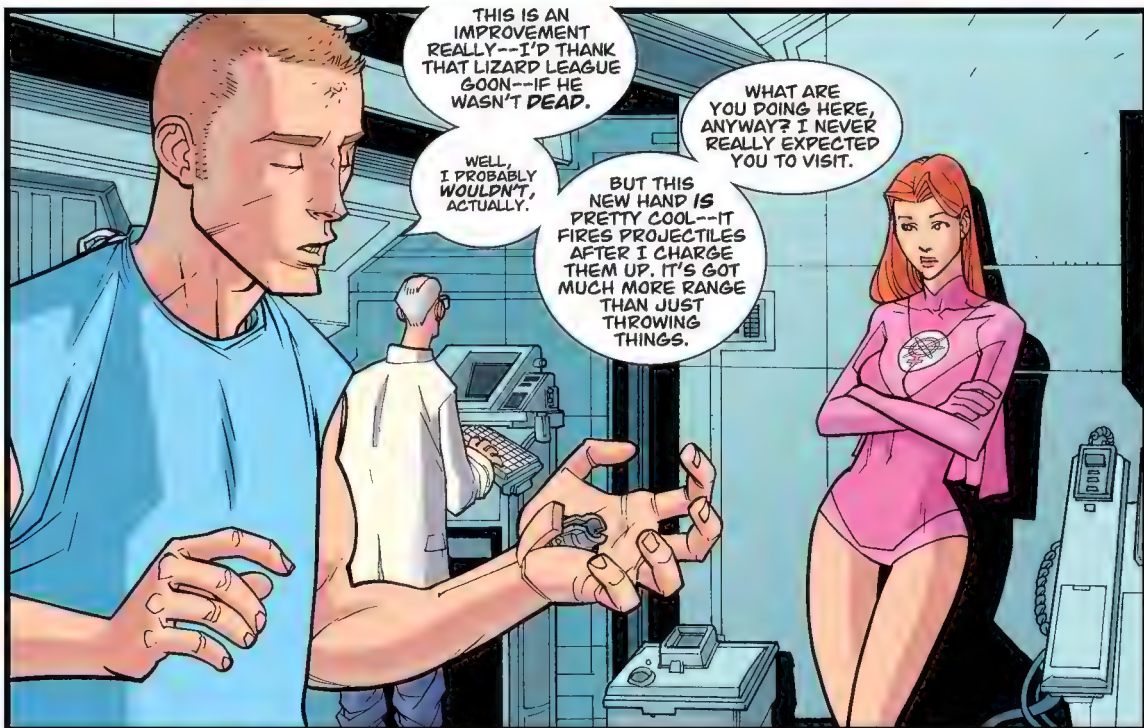
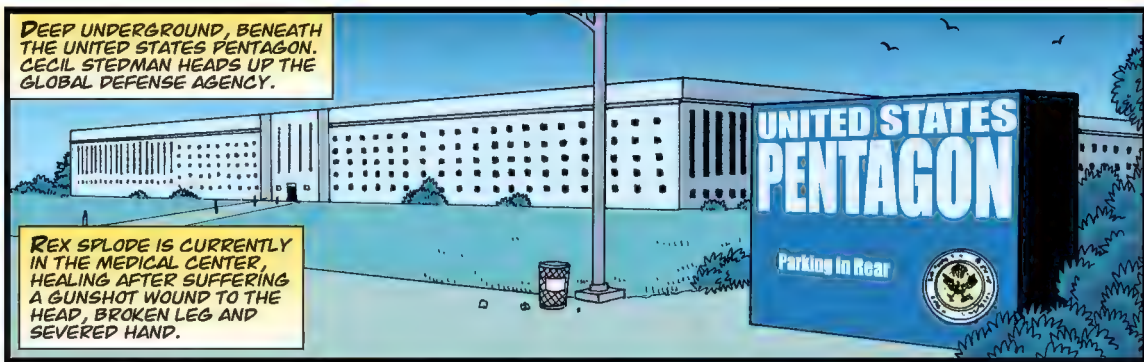
TELL ME WHY I NEED SCHOOL AND I'LL CONSIDER STAYING.

GO ON.



DEEP UNDERGROUND, BENEATH THE UNITED STATES PENTAGON. CECIL STEPMAN HEADS UP THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY.

REX SPODE IS CURRENTLY IN THE MEDICAL CENTER, HEALING AFTER SUFFERING A GUNSHOT WOUND TO THE HEAD, BROKEN LEG AND SEVERED HAND.



THIS IS AN IMPROVEMENT REALLY--I'D THANK THAT LIZARD LEAGUE GOON--IF HE WASN'T DEAD.

WELL, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T, ACTUALLY.

BUT THIS NEW HAND IS PRETTY COOL--IT FIRES PROJECTILES AFTER I CHARGE THEM UP. IT'S GOT MUCH MORE RANGE THAN JUST THROWING THINGS.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ANYWAY? I NEVER REALLY EXPECTED YOU TO VISIT.

LOOK, YOU'RE A SCUMBAG, OF THE HIGHEST ORDER--

THANKS.

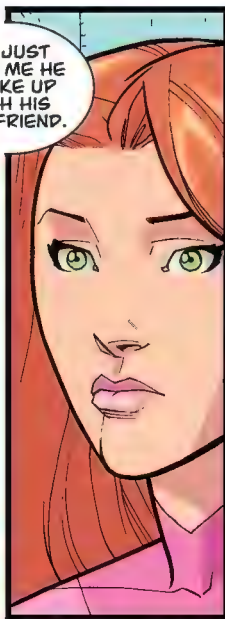
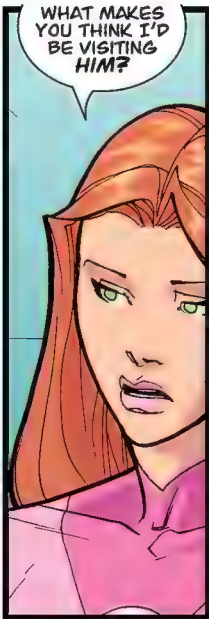
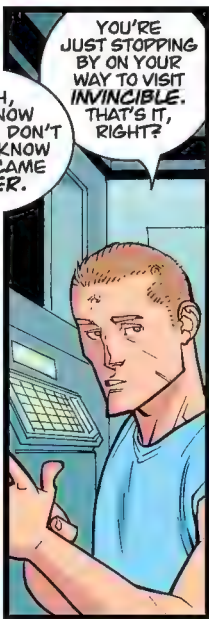
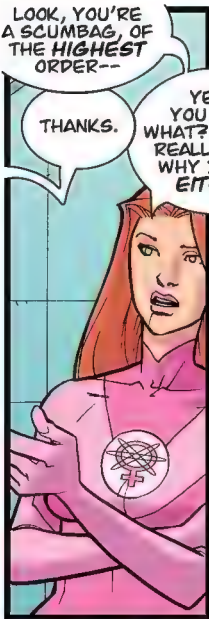
YEAH, YOU KNOW WHAT? I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY I CAME EITHER.

YOU'RE JUST STOPPING BY ON YOUR WAY TO VISIT INVINCIBLE. THAT'S IT, RIGHT?

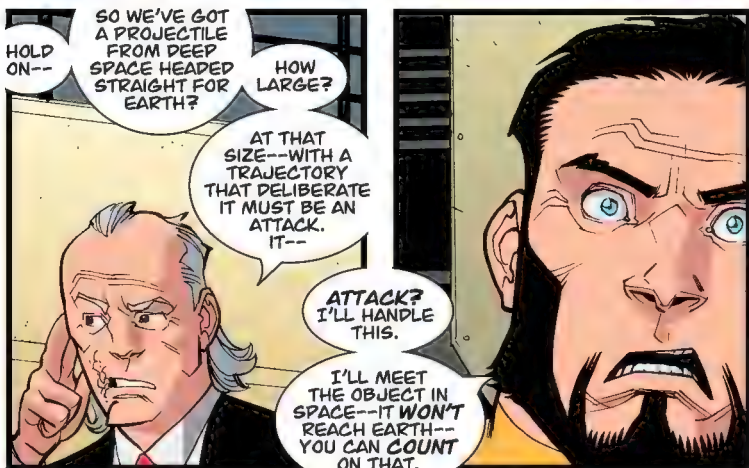
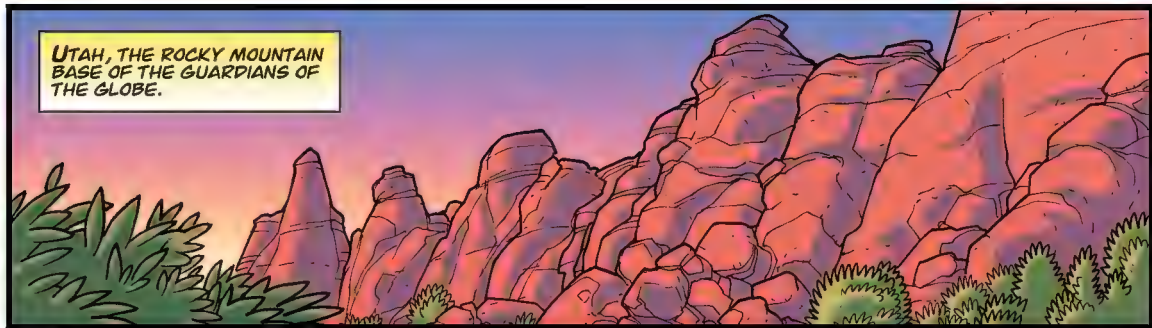
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'D BE VISITING HIM?

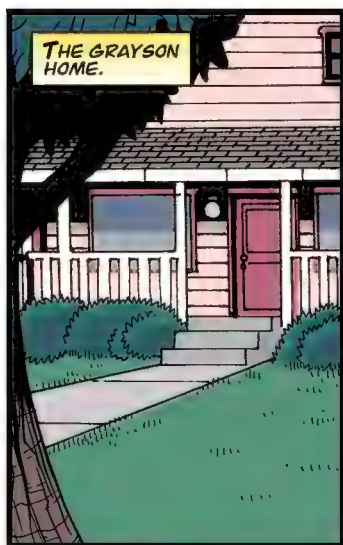
I KNOW YOU ALWAYS KINDA HAD A THING FOR HIM. HE'S A GOOD GUY-- YOU SHOULD GO FOR IT.

HE JUST TOLD ME HE BROKE UP WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND.



UTAH, THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN
BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF
THE GLOBE.





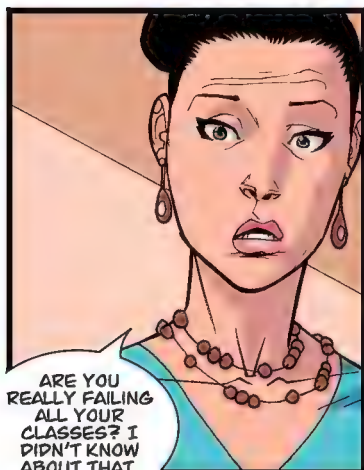
THE GRAYSON HOME.

HE'S OUT. HE DOESN'T USUALLY GO DOWN FOR A NAP THIS EASY. I GUESS FLYING MAKES HIM TIRED.

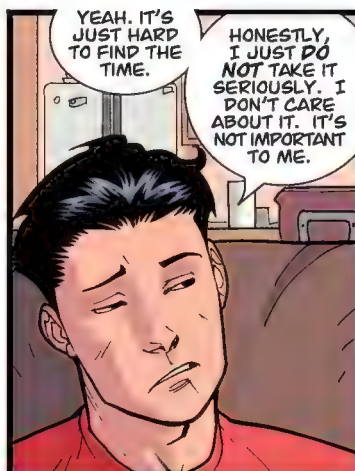
DOES FLYING MAKE YOU TIRED?

AT FIRST MORE THAN NOW. I HAVE TO REALLY PUSH IT WITH MY SPEED TO BREAK A SWEAT FLYING. IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN IF YOU CAN'T DO IT.

SO... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THE LITTLE GUY?



ARE YOU REALLY FAILING ALL YOUR CLASSES? I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.



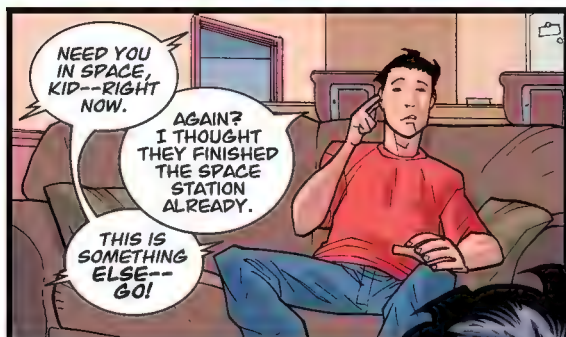
YEAH. IT'S JUST HARD TO FIND THE TIME.

HONESTLY, I JUST DO NOT TAKE IT SERIOUSLY. I DON'T CARE ABOUT IT. IT'S NOT IMPORTANT TO ME.



I CAN'T ARGUE WITH YOU. THINGS LIKE SCHOOL **MUST** SEEM UNIMPORTANT WHEN YOU'RE OUT IN SPACE TRYING TO SAVE THE WHOLE PLANET.

DO YOU WANT TO QUIT?



NEED YOU IN SPACE, KID--RIGHT NOW.

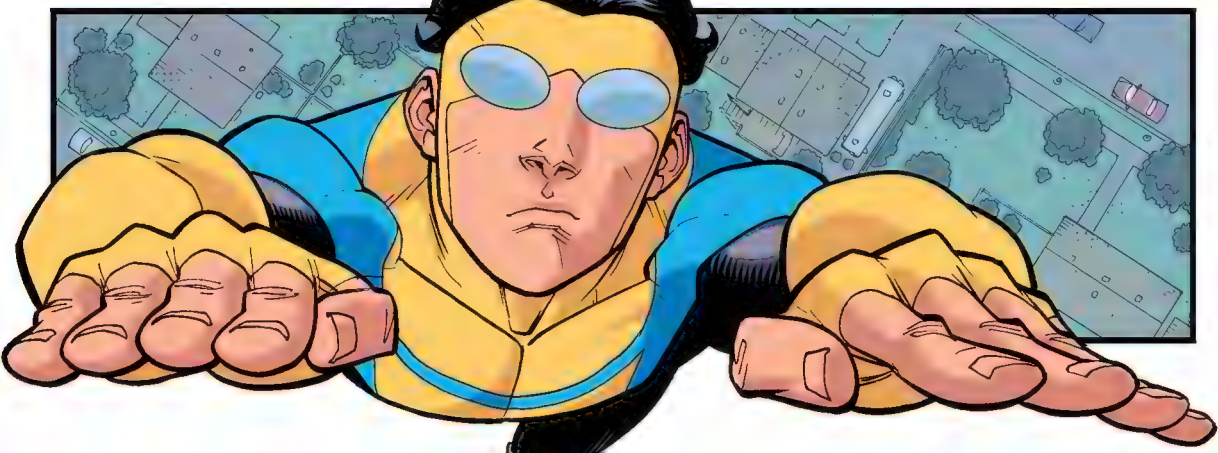
AGAIN? I THOUGHT THEY FINISHED THE SPACE STATION ALREADY.

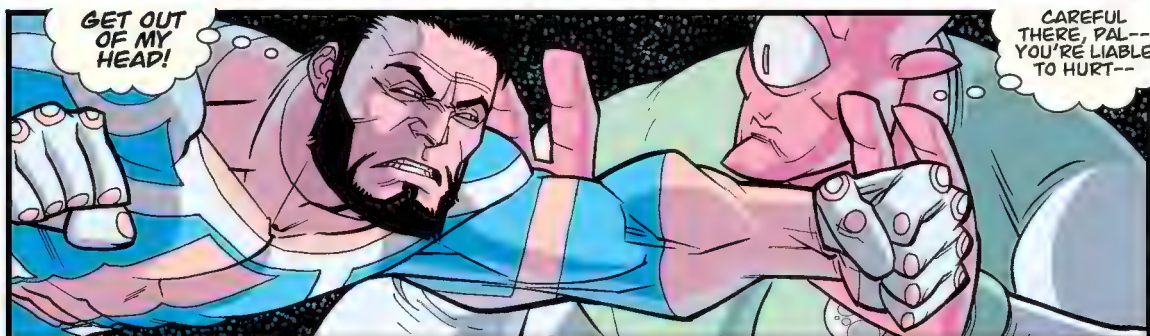
THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE--GO!



WE CAN FINISH THIS LATER. GO ON--BE A HERO... MAKE ME PROUD.

I'LL SEE YOU SOON.

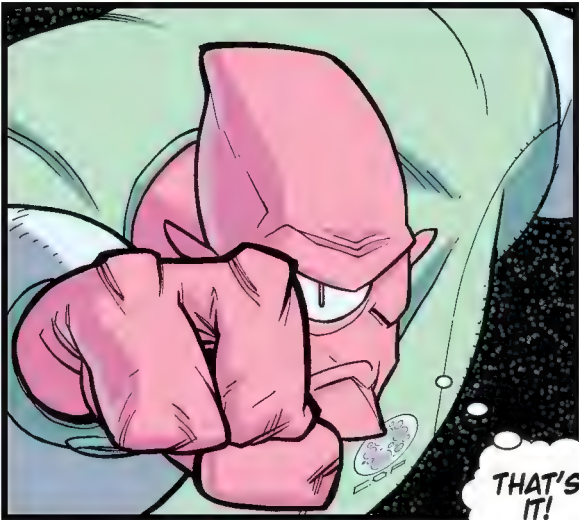


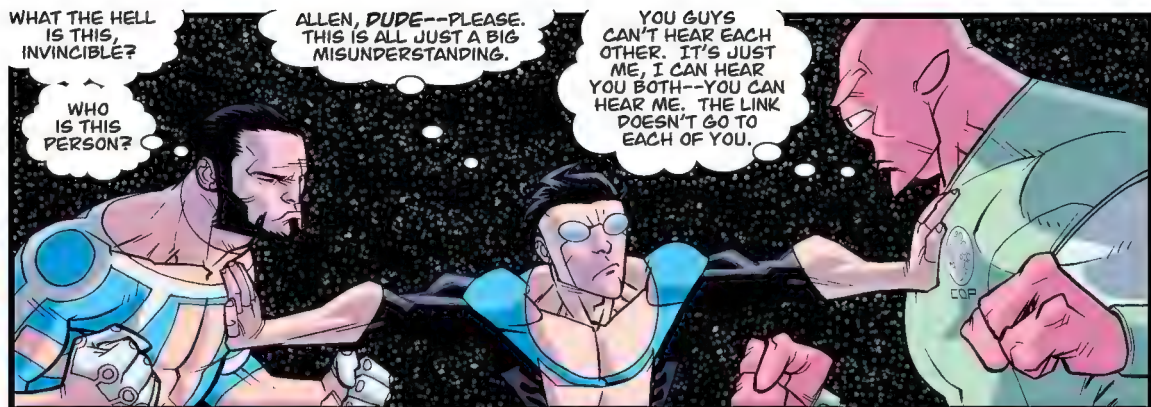




--SOMEONE.





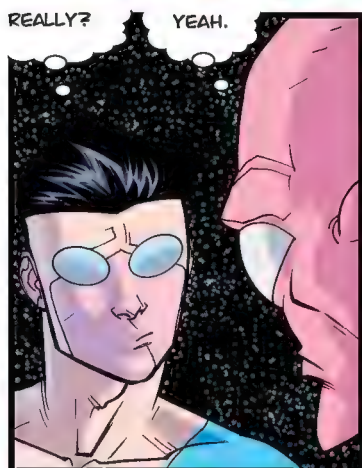


WHAT THE HELL IS THIS, INVINCIBLE?

WHO IS THIS PERSON?

ALLEN, DUPE--PLEASE. THIS IS ALL JUST A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING.

YOU GUYS CAN'T HEAR EACH OTHER. IT'S JUST ME, I CAN HEAR YOU BOTH--YOU CAN HEAR ME. THE LINK DOESN'T GO TO EACH OF YOU.



REALLY?

YEAH.

OKAY--THIS GUY IS NOT THAT STRONG AT ALL. YOU'D KILL HIM--YOU'D JUST RIP HIM APART.

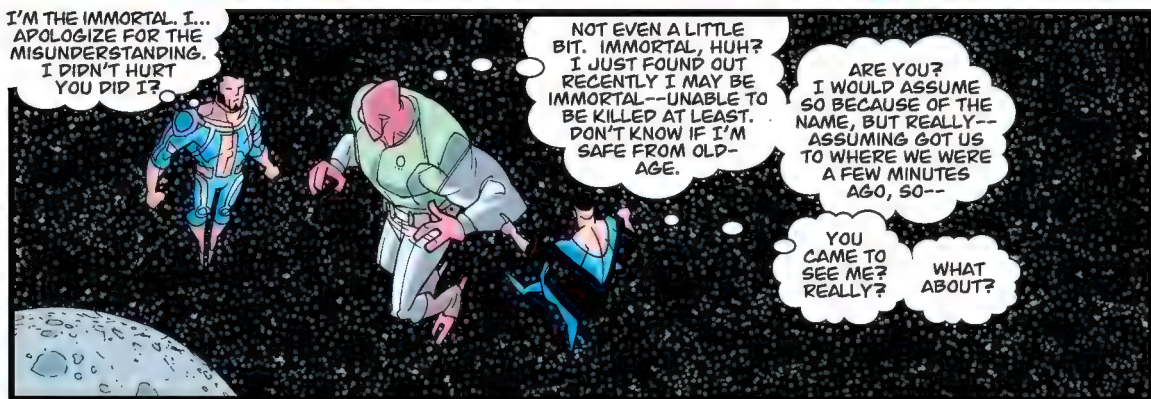
HE'S ALSO A TOTAL JERK. BUT HE'S BEEN THROUGH A LOT RECENTLY--SO CUT HIM SOME SLACK.



OH, COOL.

SEEMS OUR MUTUAL FRIEND HAS SORTED EVERYTHING OUT HERE. I'M NOT ATTACKING OR ANYTHING. I REALLY JUST CAME TO SEE HIM.

MY NAME'S ALLEN. IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.



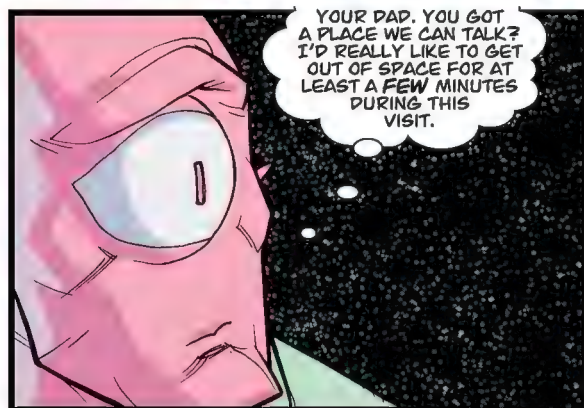
I'M THE IMMORTAL. I... APOLOGIZE FOR THE MISUNDERSTANDING. I DIDN'T HURT YOU DID I?

NOT EVEN A LITTLE BIT. IMMORTAL, HUH? I JUST FOUND OUT RECENTLY I MAY BE IMMORTAL--UNABLE TO BE KILLED AT LEAST. DON'T KNOW IF I'M SAFE FROM OLD-AGE.

ARE YOU? I WOULD ASSUME SO BECAUSE OF THE NAME, BUT REALLY--ASSUMING GOT US TO WHERE WE WERE A FEW MINUTES AGO, SO--

YOU CAME TO SEE ME? REALLY?

WHAT ABOUT?



YOUR DAD. YOU GOT A PLACE WE CAN TALK? I'D REALLY LIKE TO GET OUT OF SPACE FOR AT LEAST A FEW MINUTES DURING THIS VISIT.

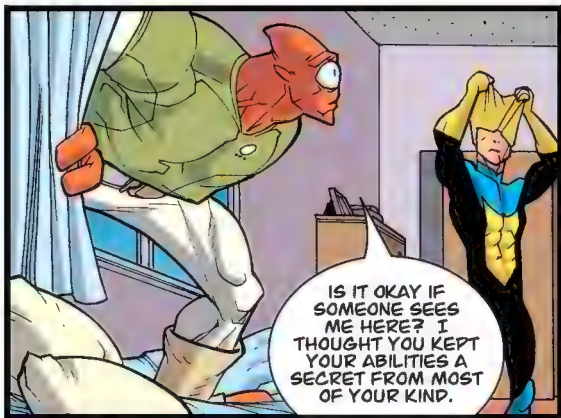


SURE, FOLLOW ME.

NICE MEETING YOU, MISTER IMMORTAL.



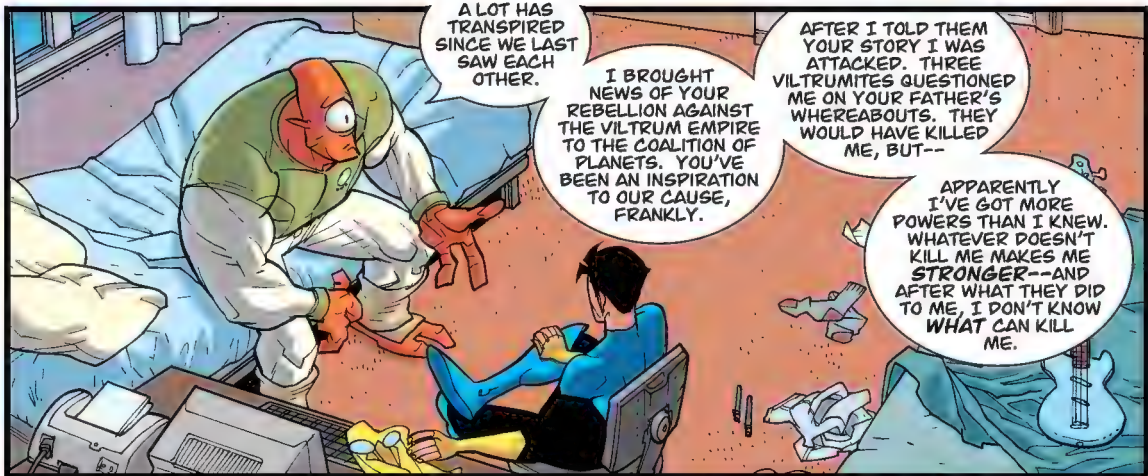
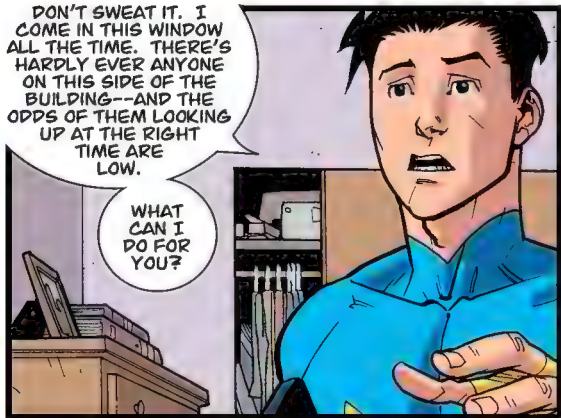
UPSTATE UNIVERSITY.
THE DORM ROOM OF MARK
GRAYSON AND WILLIAM
CLOCKWELL.



IS IT OKAY IF
SOMEONE SEES
ME HERE? I
THOUGHT YOU KEPT
YOUR ABILITIES A
SECRET FROM MOST
OF YOUR KIND.

DON'T SWEAT IT. I
COME IN THIS WINDOW
ALL THE TIME. THERE'S
HARDLY EVER ANYONE
ON THIS SIDE OF THE
BUILDING--AND THE
OPPS OF THEM LOOKING
UP AT THE RIGHT
TIME ARE
LOW.

WHAT
CAN I
DO FOR
YOU?



A LOT HAS
TRANSPIRED
SINCE WE LAST
SAW EACH
OTHER.

I BROUGHT
NEWS OF YOUR
REBELLION AGAINST
THE VILTRUM EMPIRE
TO THE COALITION OF
PLANETS. YOU'VE
BEEN AN INSPIRATION
TO OUR CAUSE,
FRANKLY.

AFTER I TOLD THEM
YOUR STORY I WAS
ATTACKED. THREE
VILTRUMITES QUESTIONED
ME ON YOUR FATHER'S
WHEREABOUTS. THEY
WOULD HAVE KILLED
ME, BUT--

APPARENTLY
I'VE GOT MORE
POWERS THAN I KNEW.
WHATEVER DOESN'T
KILL ME MAKES ME
STRONGER--AND
AFTER WHAT THEY DID
TO ME, I DON'T KNOW
WHAT CAN KILL
ME.



YEAH--
I NOTICED
YOU PUT A
LOT OF
WEIGHT
ON.

YOU'RE
BEEFIER.



THANKS.

THAEDUS--
THE LEADER OF
THE COALITION OF
PLANETS SUSPECTS
THERE'S A MOLE
WITHIN THE GROUP--
SOMEONE WHO TIPPED
OFF THE VILTRUMITES
ABOUT MY REPORT
ON EARTH, SENT
THEM AFTER
ME.

I'M
WORKING
EXCLUSIVELY
FOR HIM NOW--
HE SENT ME
HERE.

SO, THAEDUS IS THE GUY IN CHARGE THERE? HE RUNS THE COALITION OF PLANETS. WHY DID HE SEND YOU HERE?

FOR YOU.

HE WANTS ME TO BRING YOU BACK TO TALESERIA, TO MEET WITH HIM. IF YOU'D LIKE TO PACK SOME THINGS--WE COULD--

WHAT?!

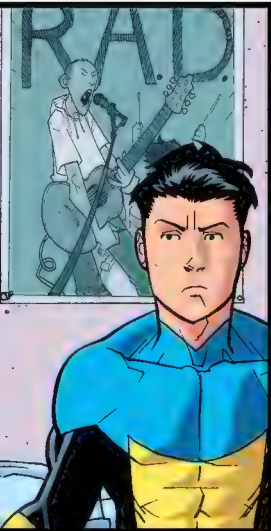
NO! NO WAY-- I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

YOU'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH RECENTLY. I'M NOT GOING OUT INTO SPACE AGAIN-- NO WAY. I--SPACE SUCKS.

I'VE BEEN OUT IN SPACE MORE THAN I'VE BEEN ON THIS PLANET IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. I JUST BROKE UP WITH MY GIRLFRIEND--WHO I REALLY DID LIKE-- BECAUSE I'M GONE SO MUCH. I NEVER GET TO SEE MY MOM.

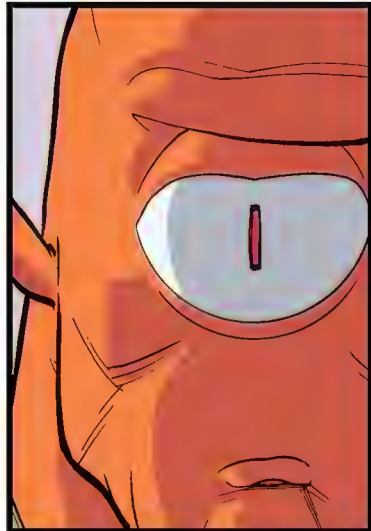
MY LITTLE BROTHER JUST GOT POWERS AND I--

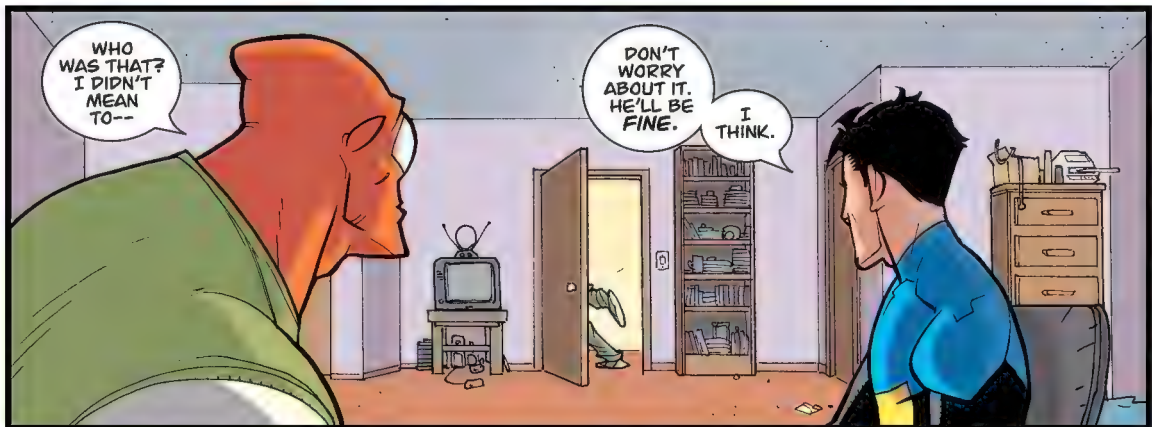
NO. THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING. I'M SORRY ALLEN, BUT I'D FIGHT YOU BEFORE I LET YOU TAKE ME.

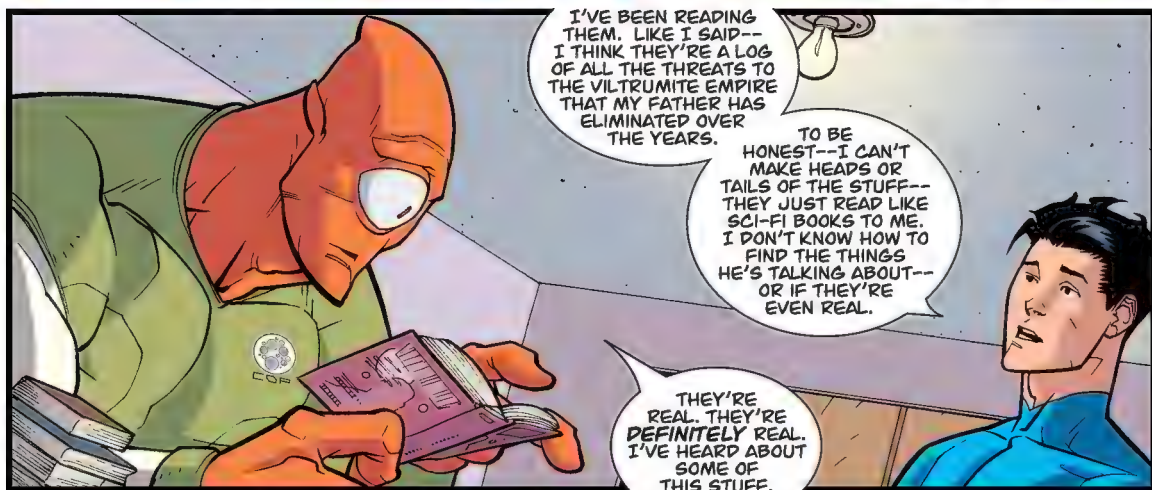
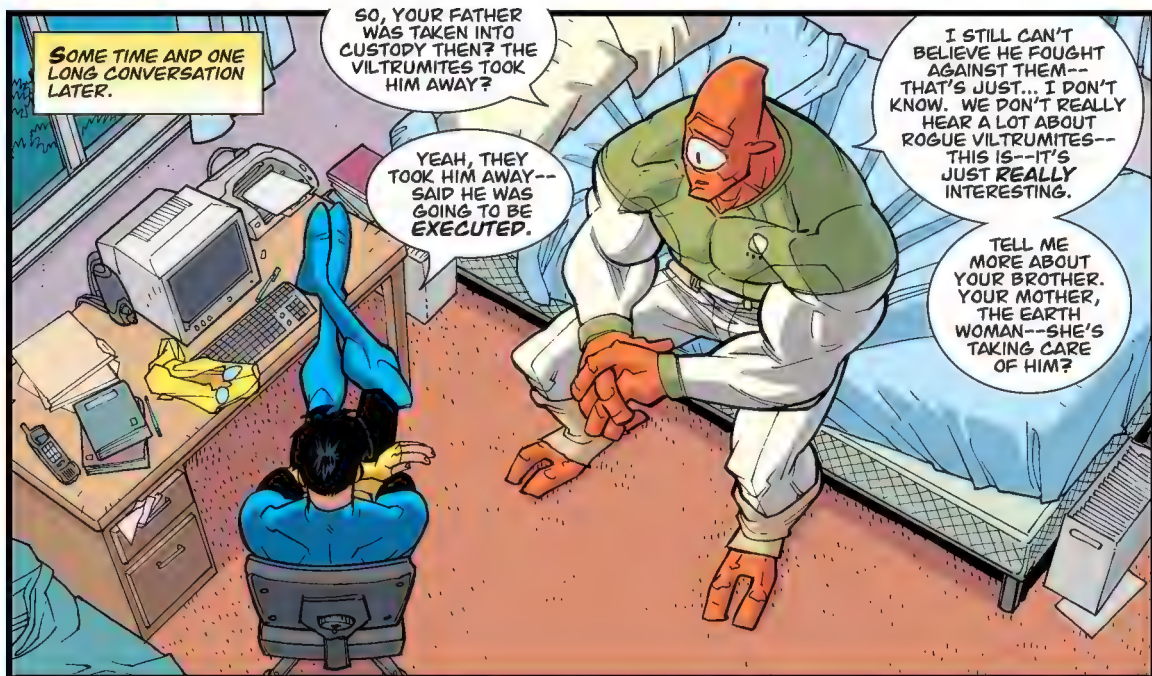


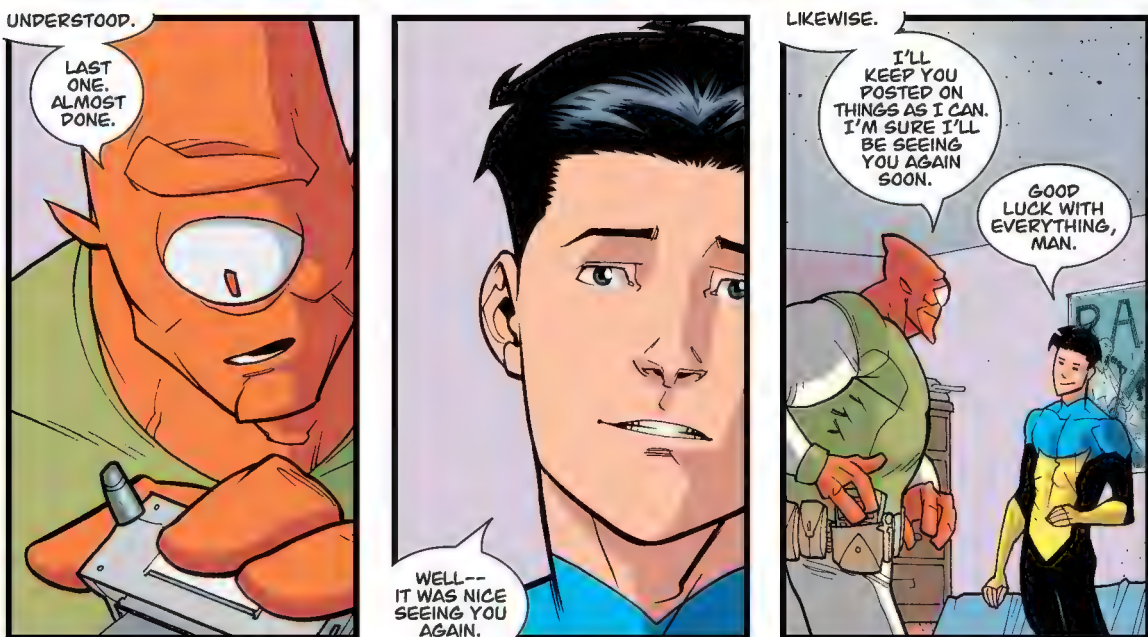
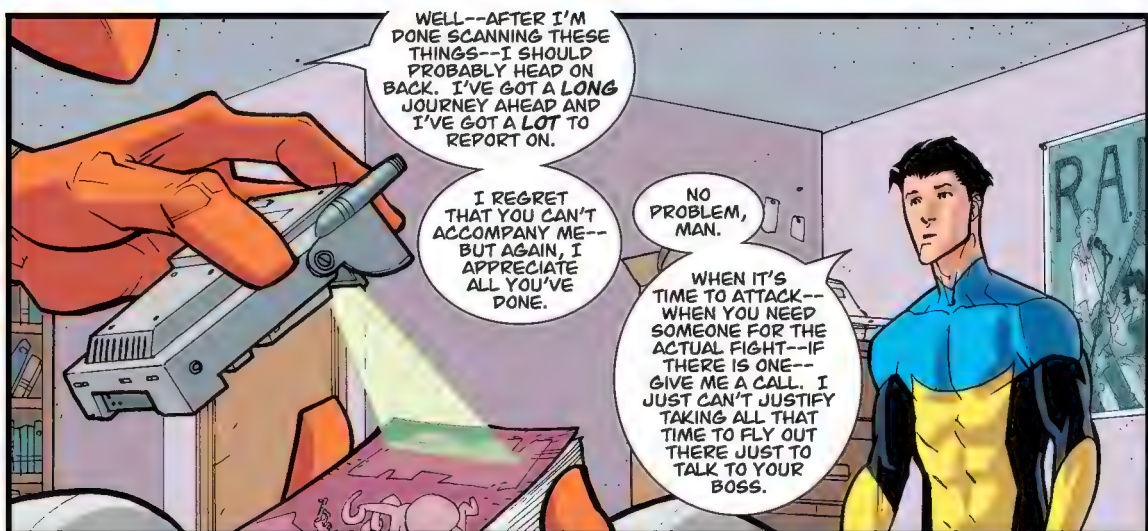
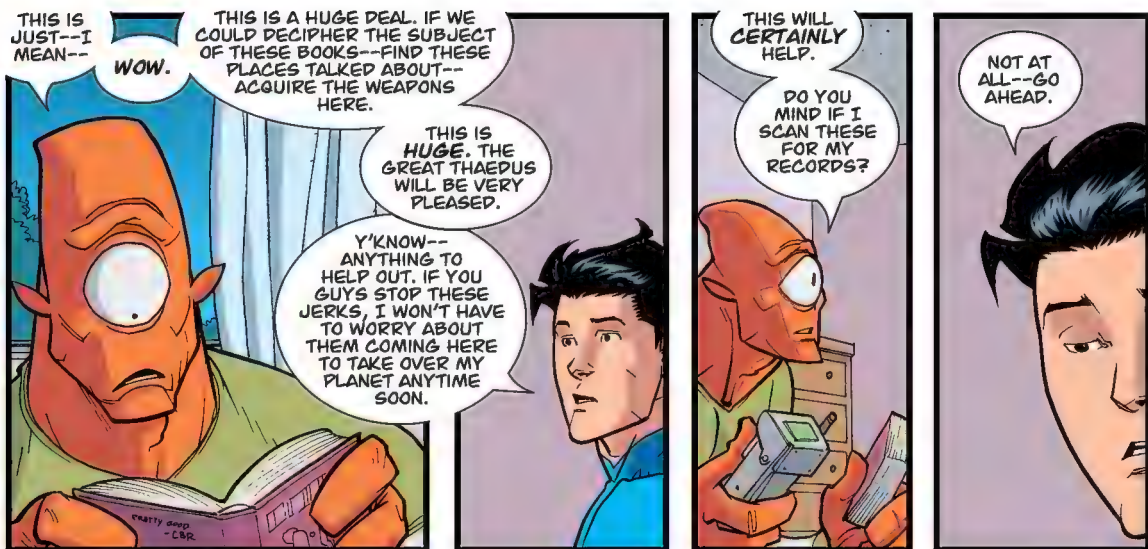
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE ME FIGHT YOU...

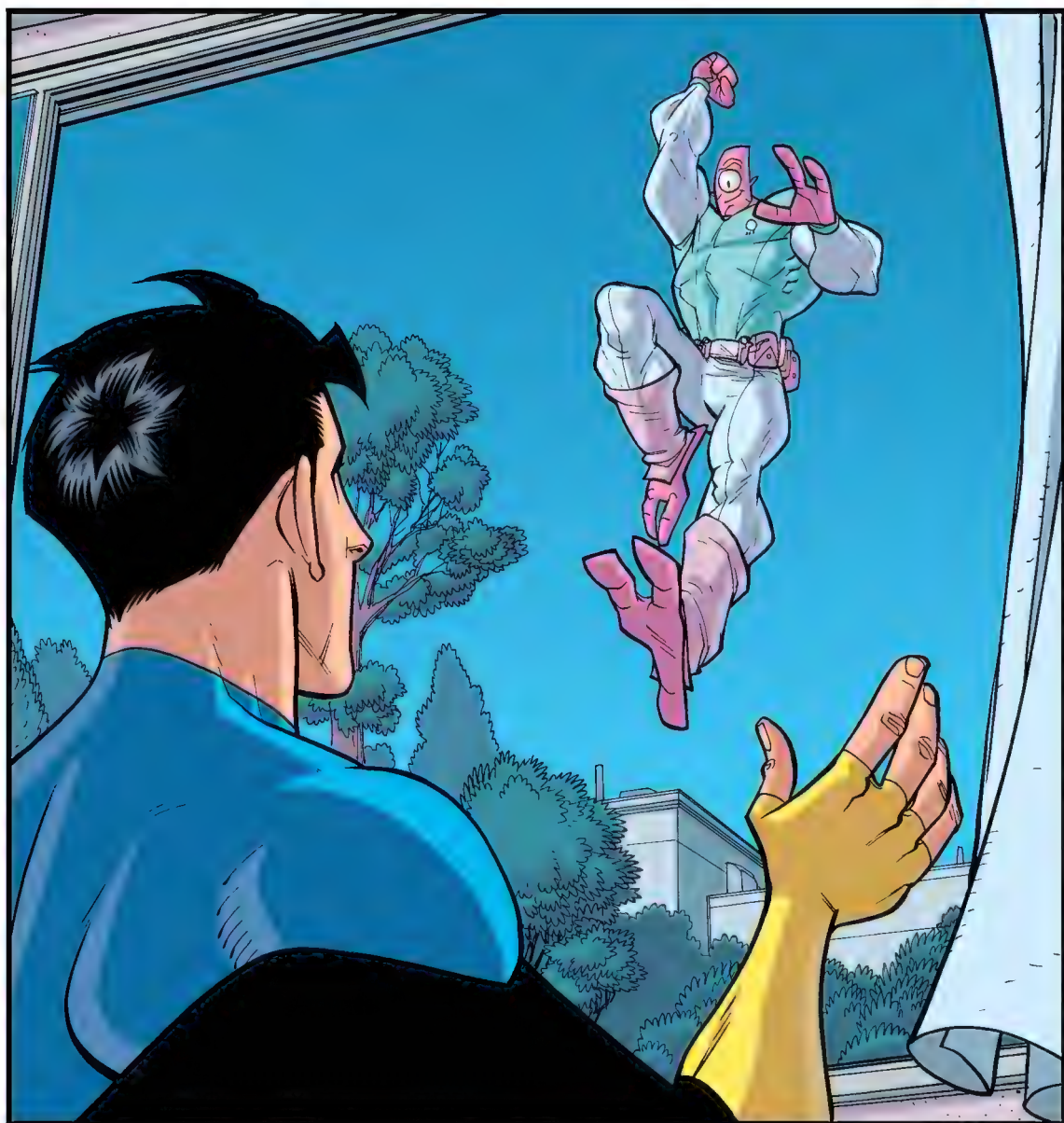
...ARE YOU?





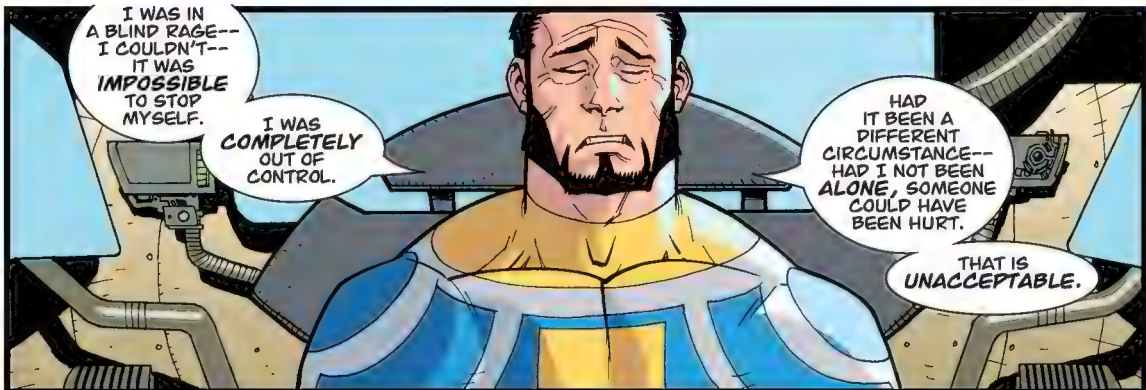








UTAH, THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

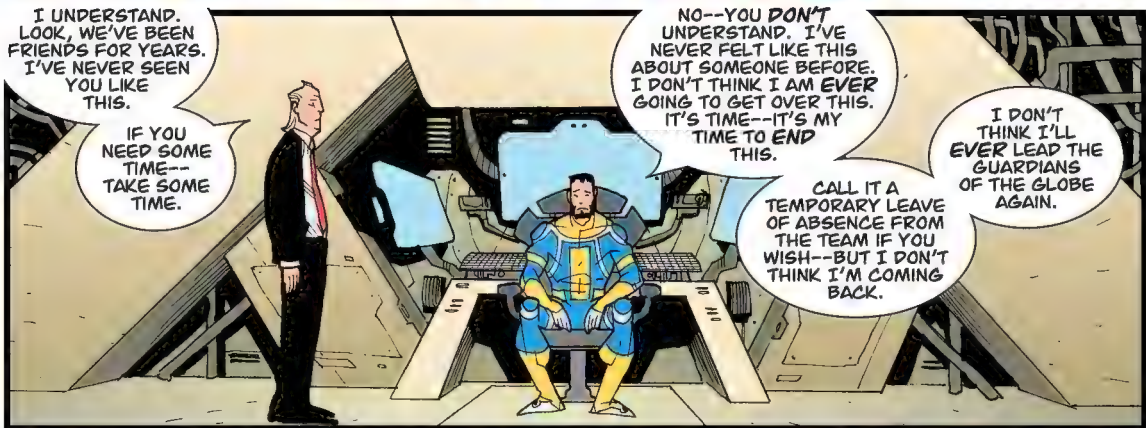


I WAS IN A BLIND RAGE-- I COULDN'T-- IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP MYSELF.

I WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL.

HAD IT BEEN A DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCE-- HAD I NOT BEEN ALONE, SOMEONE COULD HAVE BEEN HURT.

THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE.



I UNDERSTAND. LOOK, WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR YEARS. I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS.

IF YOU NEED SOME TIME-- TAKE SOME TIME.

NO--YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS ABOUT SOMEONE BEFORE. I DON'T THINK I AM EVER GOING TO GET OVER THIS. IT'S TIME--IT'S MY TIME TO END THIS.

I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER LEAD THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE AGAIN.

CALL IT A TEMPORARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE TEAM IF YOU WISH--BUT I DON'T THINK I'M COMING BACK.



I'M DONE.



THERESA, PLEASE SCHEDULE A MEETING WITH ROBOT FOR MY EARLIEST POSSIBLE SLOT.

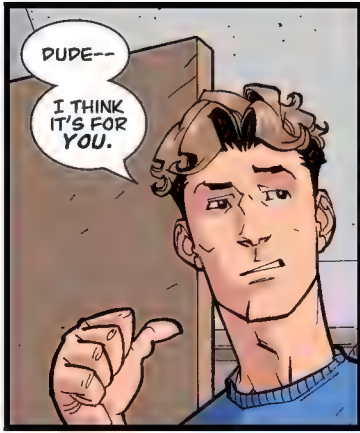
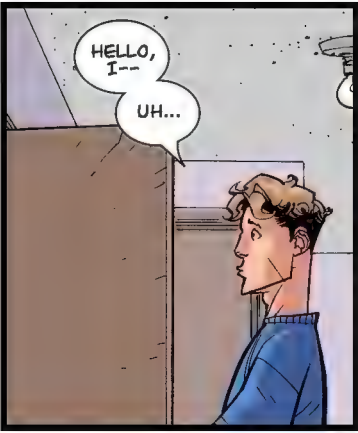
THANK YOU.



TELL HIM HIS OLD POSITION JUST OPENED UP.

I WANT TO GIVE HIM ANOTHER CHANCE.



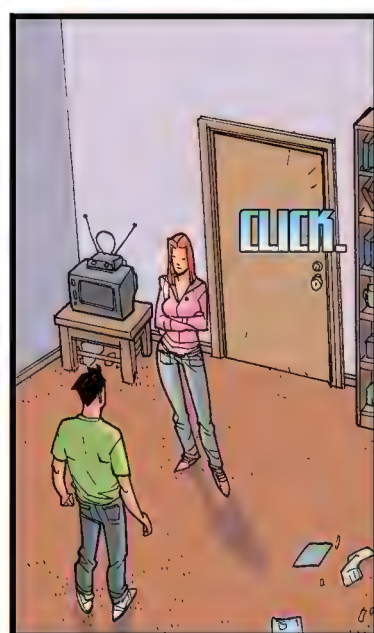
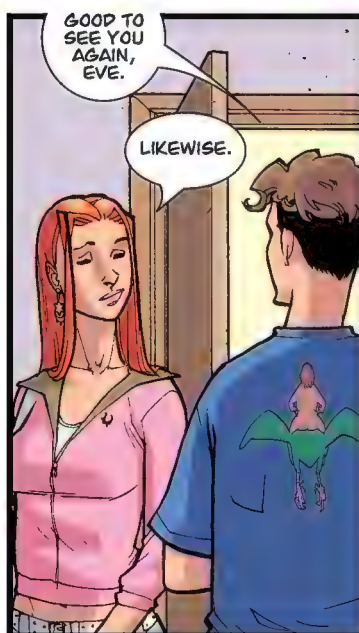






CHAPTER THREE

Ryan



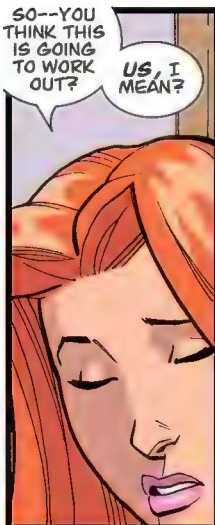


WERE YOU GOING TO CALL ME?



OF COURSE. I JUST... I JUST BROKE UP WITH HER. I STILL HAD SOME THINGS TO WORK OUT, Y'KNOW?

I WAS GOING TO CALL YOU. OR JUST VISIT.



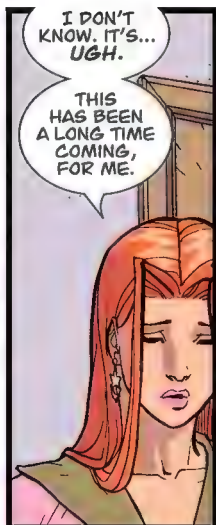
SO--YOU THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK OUT?

US, I MEAN?



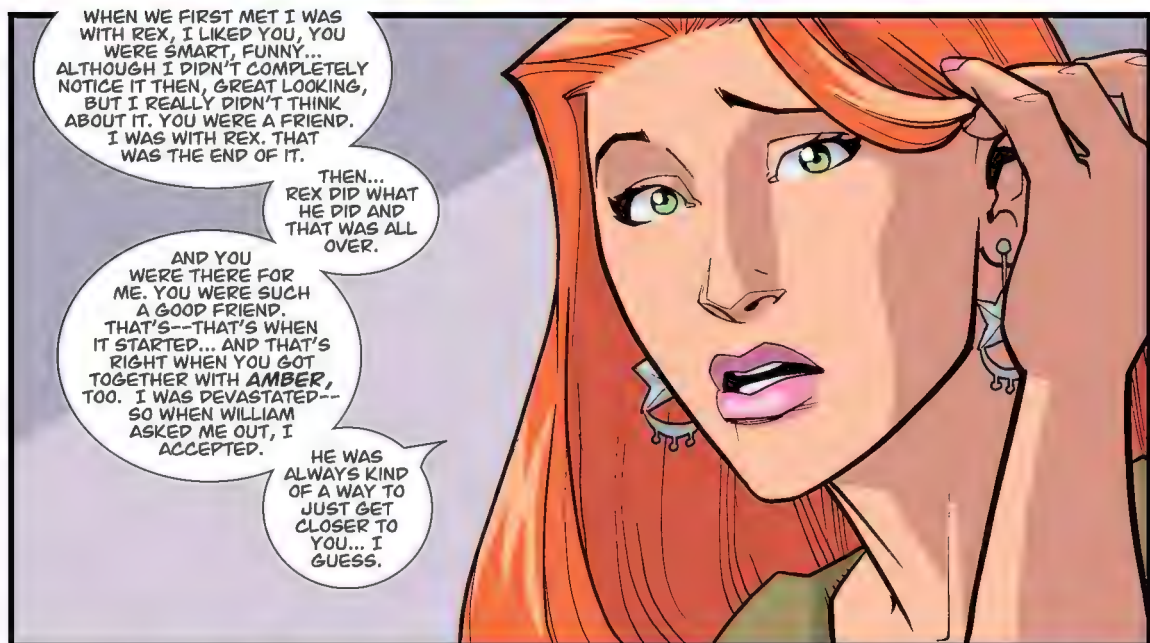
OF COURSE, EVE. I HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU. I WAS JUST TAKING SOME TIME.

LOOK AT YOU--WHERE'S THAT NAME BRAND ATOM EVE CONFIDENCE? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS.



I DON'T KNOW. IT'S... UGH.

THIS HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING, FOR ME.

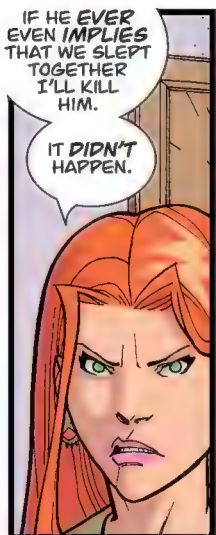


WHEN WE FIRST MET I WAS WITH REX, I LIKED YOU, YOU WERE SMART, FUNNY... ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T COMPLETELY NOTICE IT THEN, GREAT LOOKING, BUT I REALLY DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT. YOU WERE A FRIEND. I WAS WITH REX. THAT WAS THE END OF IT.

THEN... REX DID WHAT HE DID AND THAT WAS ALL OVER.

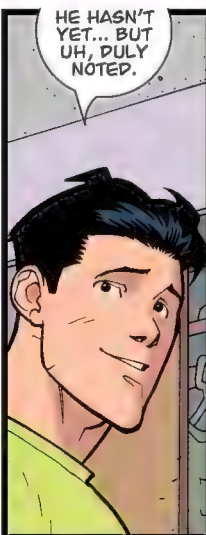
AND YOU WERE THERE FOR ME. YOU WERE SUCH A GOOD FRIEND. THAT'S--THAT'S WHEN IT STARTED... AND THAT'S RIGHT WHEN YOU GOT TOGETHER WITH AMBER, TOO. I WAS DEVASTATED--SO WHEN WILLIAM ASKED ME OUT, I ACCEPTED.

HE WAS ALWAYS KIND OF A WAY TO JUST GET CLOSER TO YOU... I GUESS.



IF HE EVER EVEN IMPLIES THAT WE SLEPT TOGETHER I'LL KILL HIM.

IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.

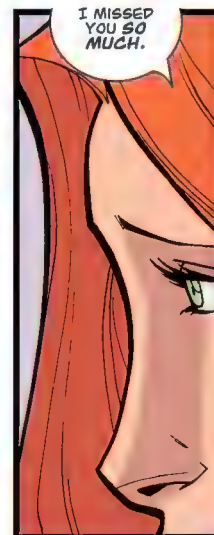


HE HASN'T YET... BUT UH, DULY NOTED.

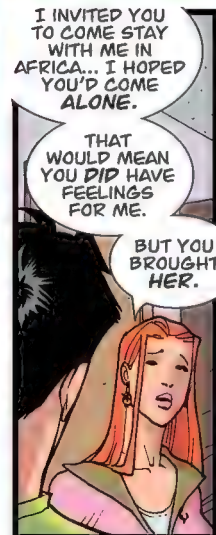


AFTER I BROKE UP WITH WILLIAM, I JUST-- IT WAS PAINFUL TO BE AROUND YOU. YOU AND AMBER WERE SO HAPPY IT... I DID GO TO AFRICA TO HELP PEOPLE, TO DO GOOD...

BUT BEING AWAY FROM YOU WAS A BIG PART OF IT.



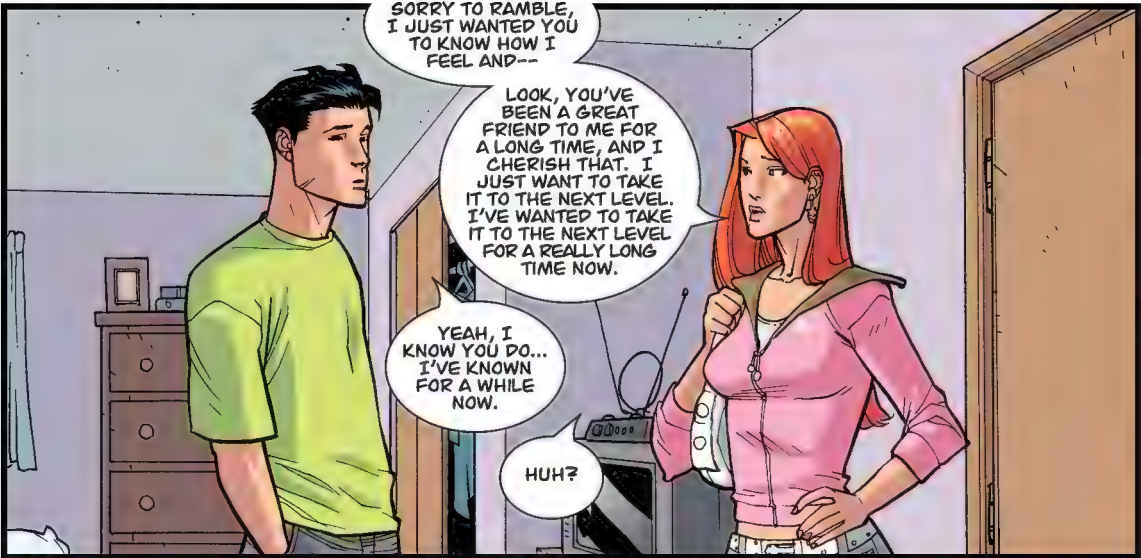
I MISSED YOU SO MUCH.



I INVITED YOU TO COME STAY WITH ME IN AFRICA... I HOPED YOU'D COME ALONE.

THAT WOULD MEAN YOU DID HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME.

BUT YOU BROUGHT HER.

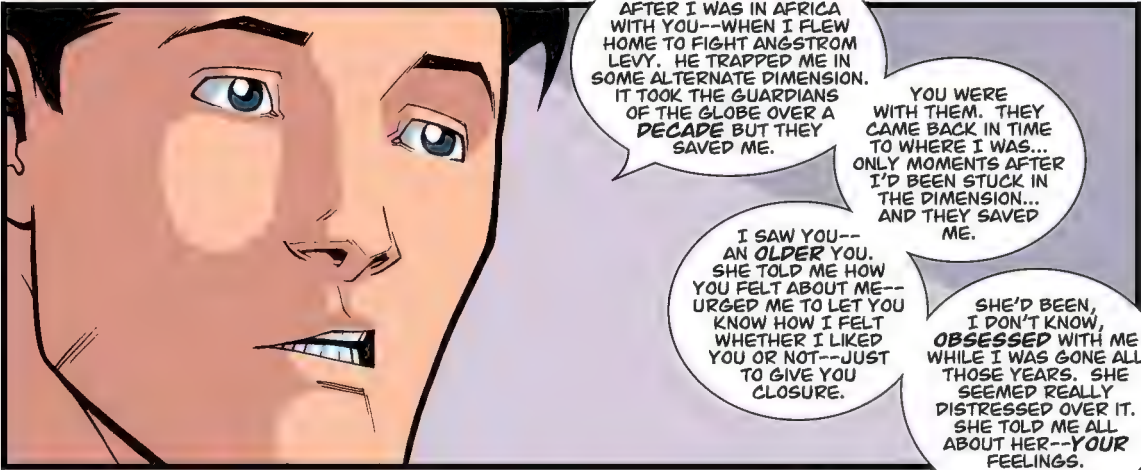


SORRY TO RAMBLE, I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW HOW I FEEL AND---

LOOK, YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT FRIEND TO ME FOR A LONG TIME, AND I CHERISH THAT. I JUST WANT TO TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL. I'VE WANTED TO TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL FOR A REALLY LONG TIME NOW.

YEAH, I KNOW YOU DO... I'VE KNOWN FOR A WHILE NOW.

HUH?



AFTER I WAS IN AFRICA WITH YOU--WHEN I FLEW HOME TO FIGHT ANGSTROM LEVY. HE TRAPPED ME IN SOME ALTERNATE DIMENSION. IT TOOK THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE OVER A **DECADE** BUT THEY SAVED ME.

YOU WERE WITH THEM. THEY CAME BACK IN TIME TO WHERE I WAS... ONLY MOMENTS AFTER I'D BEEN STUCK IN THE DIMENSION... AND THEY SAVED ME.

I SAW YOU-- AN **OLDER** YOU. SHE TOLD ME HOW YOU FELT ABOUT ME-- URGED ME TO LET YOU KNOW HOW I FELT WHETHER I LIKED YOU OR NOT--JUST TO GIVE YOU CLOSURE.

SHE'D BEEN, I DON'T KNOW, **OBSESSED** WITH ME WHILE I WAS GONE ALL THOSE YEARS. SHE SEEMED REALLY DISTRESSED OVER IT. SHE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HER--**YOUR** FEELINGS.



SHE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING?



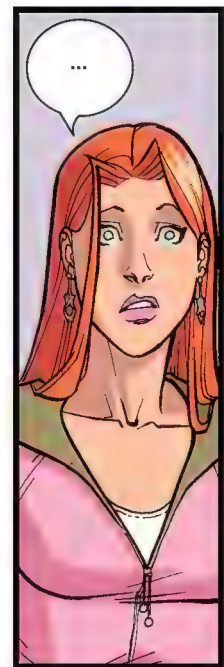
YEAH.



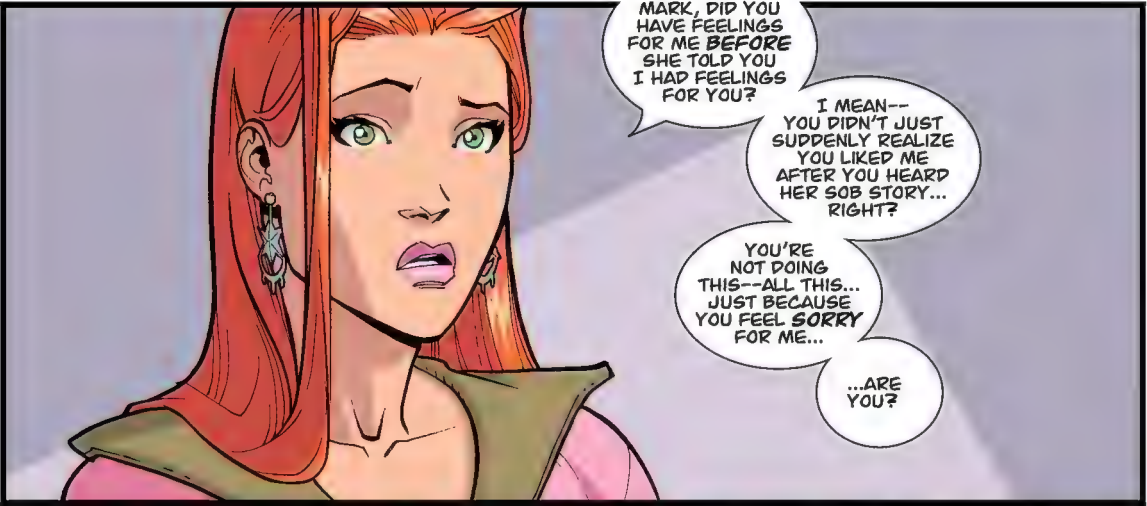
SHE JUST... TOLD YOU HOW I FELT?



YEAH.



...



MARK, DID YOU
HAVE FEELINGS
FOR ME *BEFORE*
SHE TOLD YOU
I HAD FEELINGS
FOR YOU?

I MEAN--
YOU DIDN'T JUST
SUDDENLY REALIZE
YOU LIKED ME
AFTER YOU HEARD
HER SOB STORY...
RIGHT?

YOU'RE
NOT DOING
THIS--ALL THIS...
JUST BECAUSE
YOU FEEL SORRY
FOR ME...

...ARE
YOU?



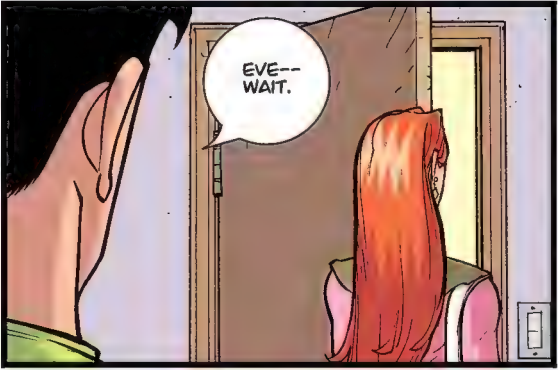
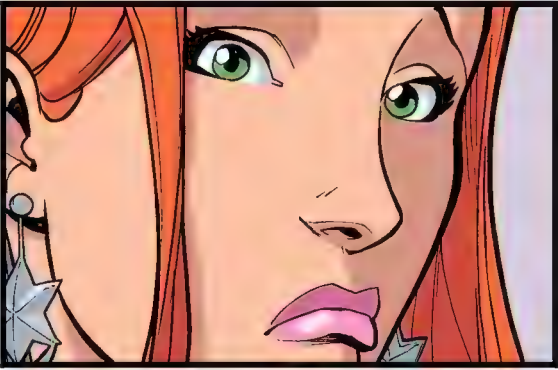
EVE,
I...

I DON'T
THINK
SO.

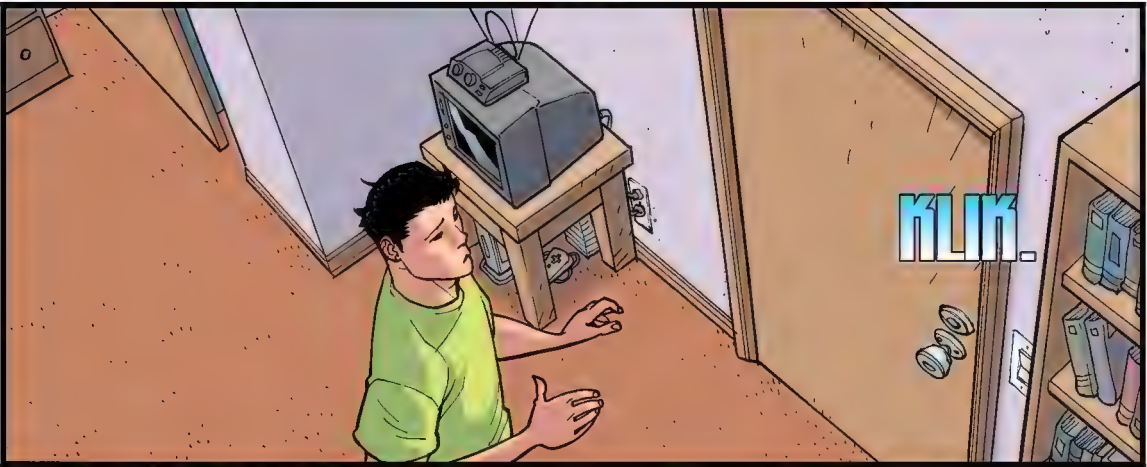


NO,
I--I
REALLY
LIKE
YOU...

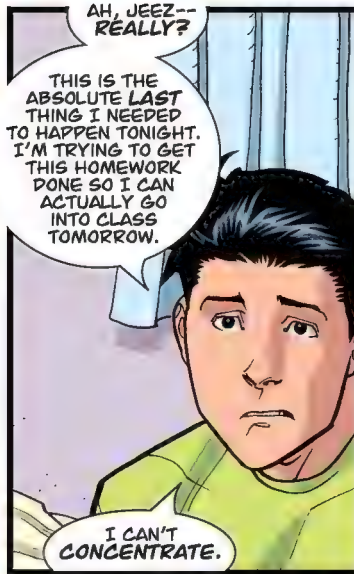
I
SWEAR.

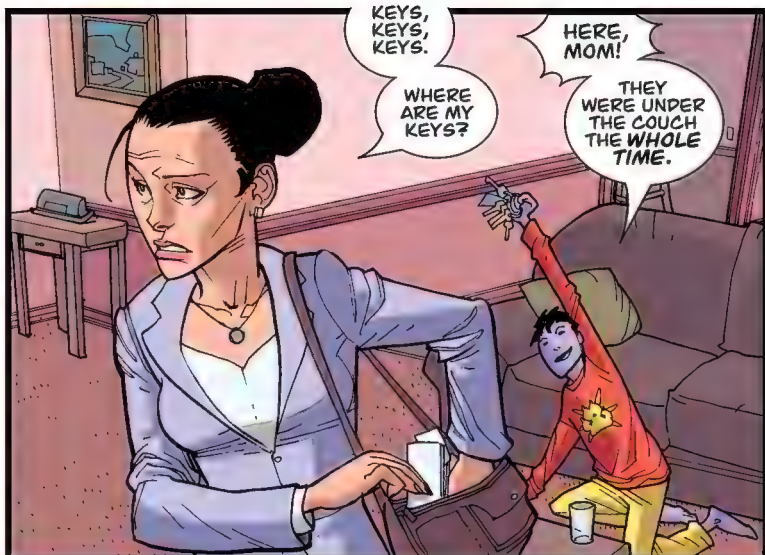


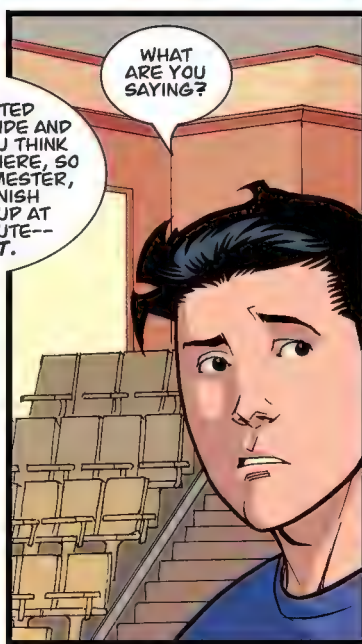
EVE--
WAIT.

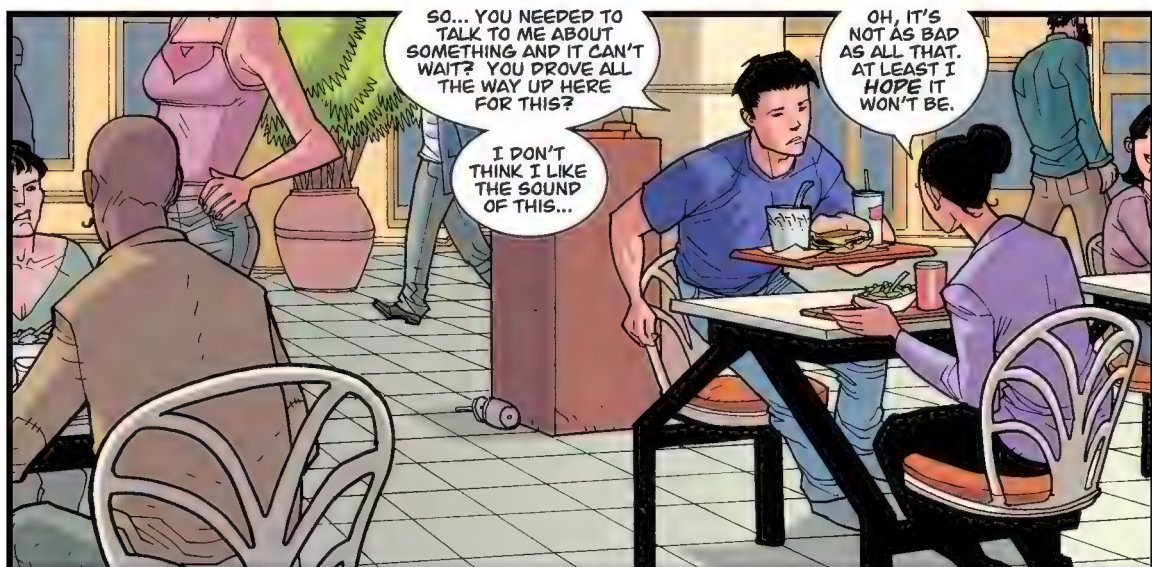
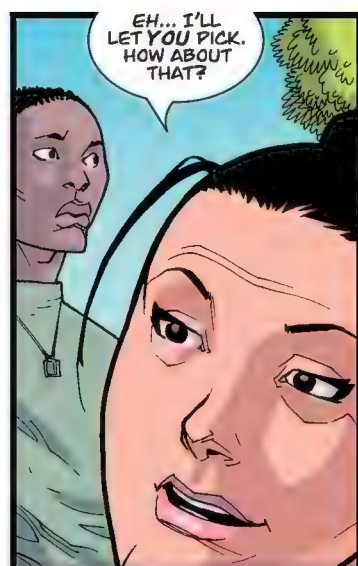


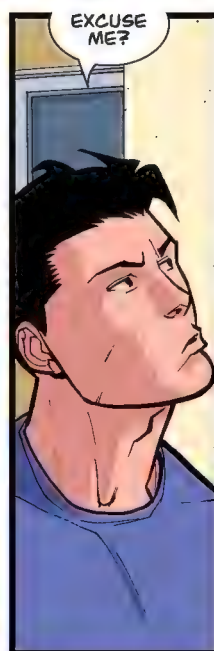
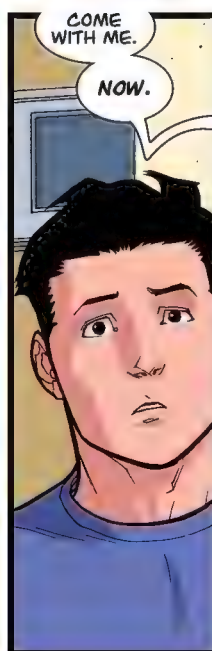
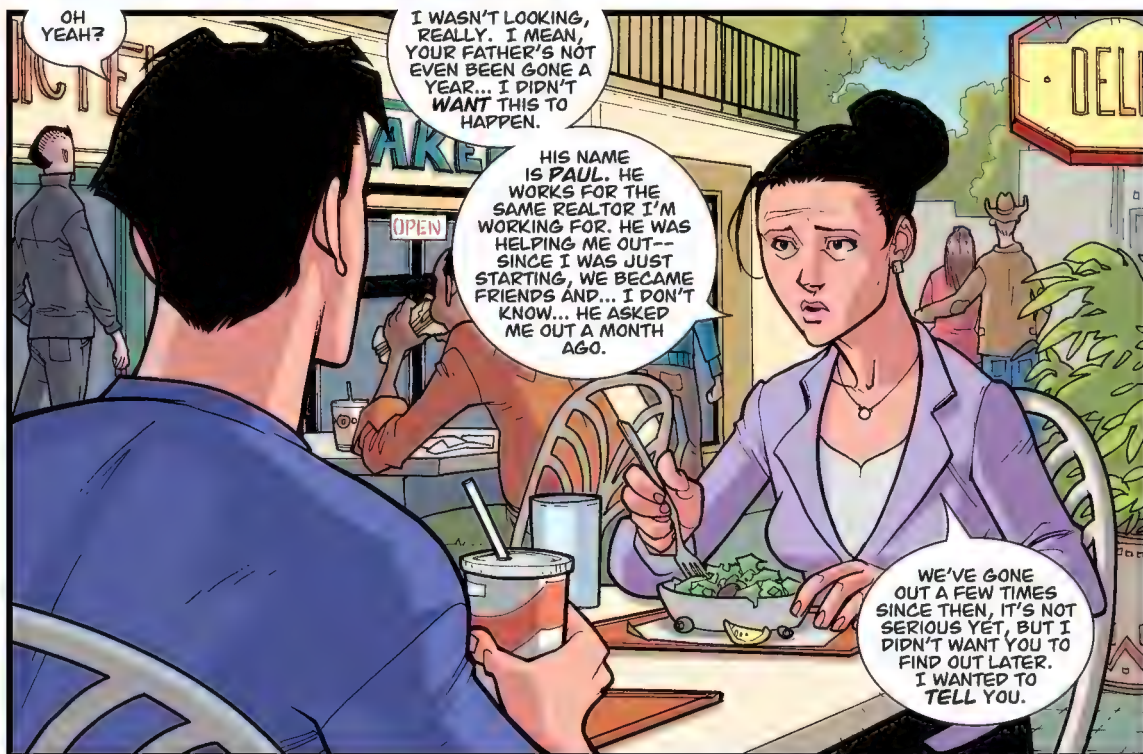
KLIK.

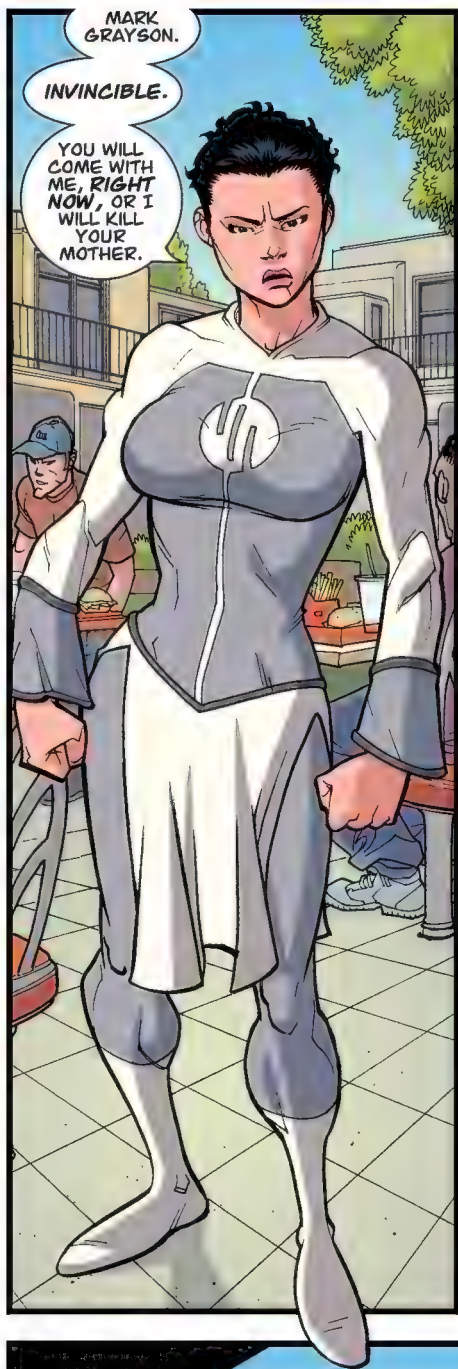


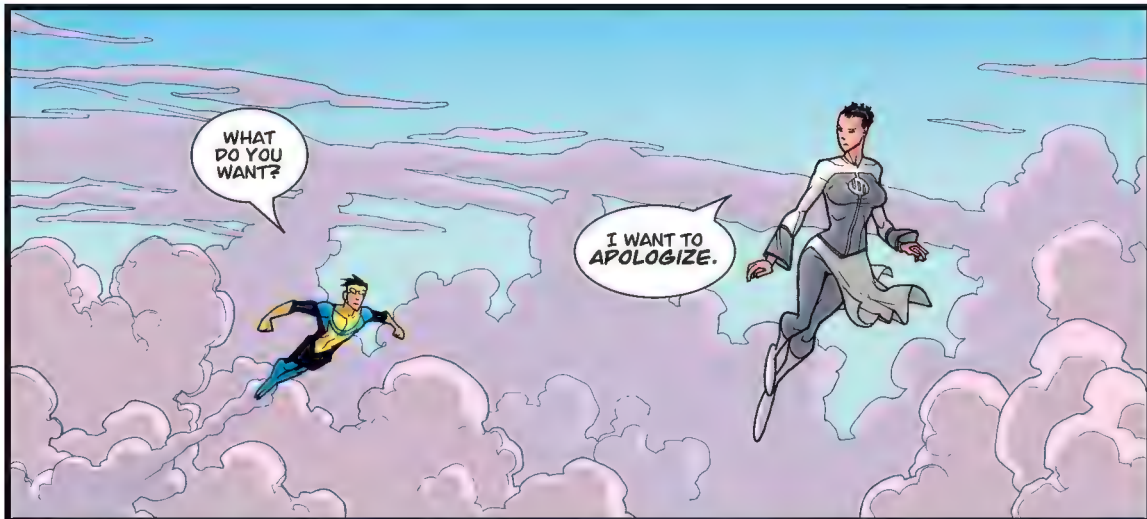






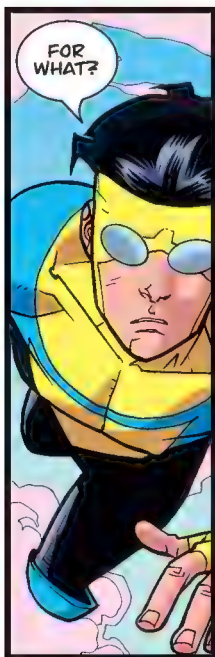






WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE.



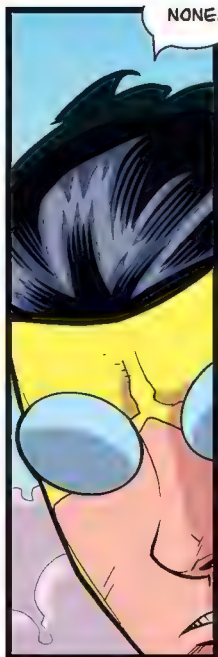
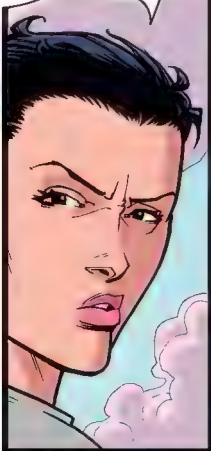
FOR WHAT?

FOR THREATENING YOUR MOTHER. THAT'S NOT HOW I WANTED THIS TO START. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I THOUGHT I COULD GET YOU ALONE QUICKLY.

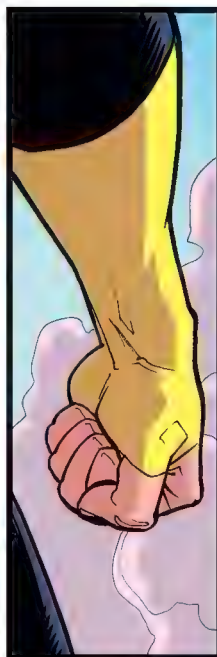
YOU HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED THE VILTRUMITE AGENT OF THIS PLANET. WHAT STEPS HAVE YOU TAKEN TO PREPARE THIS PLANET FOR EVENTUAL TAKEOVER?



FOR THAT, I APOLOGIZE.



NONE.



I'M NOT HERE TO FIGHT YOU, MARK.

TRUST ME. IF I WERE HERE TO HURT YOU--YOU'D ALREADY BE DEAD.

THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?



TO CLARIFY THINGS. I BELIEVE YOU ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT VILTRUMITES ARE WARMONGERS, A RACE TO BE FEARED, OPPOSED, EVEN DESTROYED.

I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE MISTAKEN.



AND YOU STARTED BY THREATENING TO KILL MY MOTHER?



I WON'T DENY THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL CULTURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN VILTRUMITES AND THE PEOPLE YOU WERE RAISED AMONGST.



"FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES?"

YOU THINK?!



OUR PEOPLE ARE QUICK TO TURN VIOLENT. IT IS SOMETHING WE ALL STRUGGLE WITH. HAVE YOU NOT EXPERIENCED THIS YOURSELF?

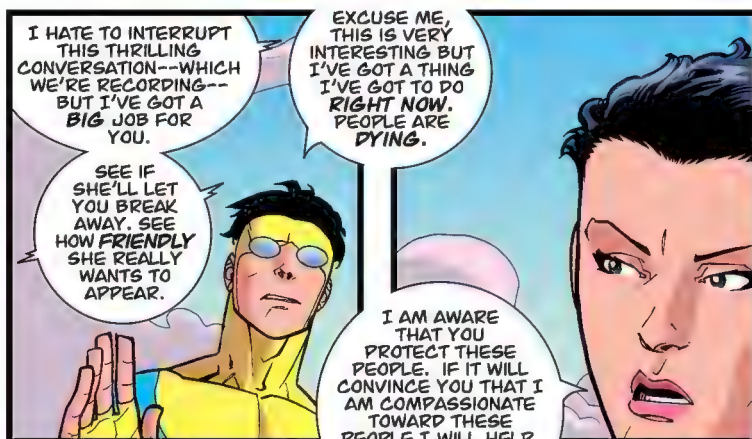
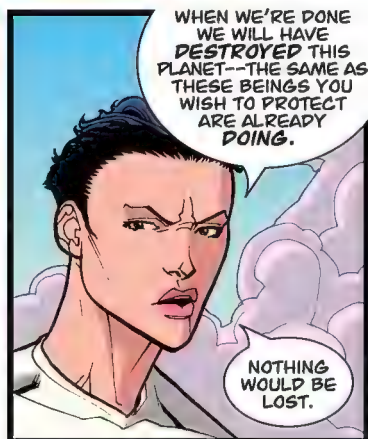
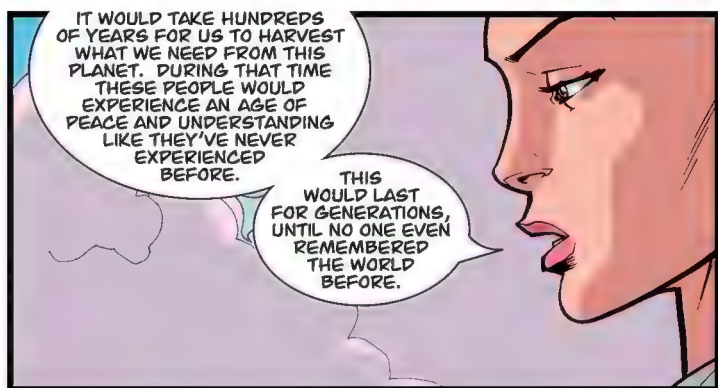
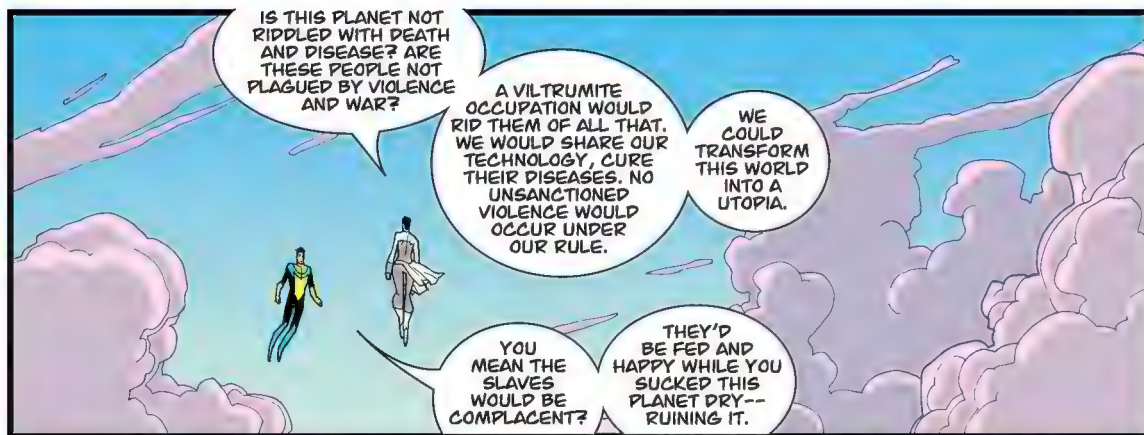


DESPITE WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT US AND OUR NATURE. YOU ARE MISUNDERSTANDING THE INTENT OF OUR DRIVE TO CONQUER OTHER WORLDS.

WE TAKE OVER, YES, AND WE DO TAKE OUR SHARE OF A PLANET'S NATURAL RESOURCES BUT WE BRING SO MUCH TO THE PLANET IN RETURN.

WE REALLY HAVE A LOT TO OFFER.

LIKE WHAT?!





HOLY
CRAP.

THE
MONSTER--I
CAN HURT
THE MONSTER,
RIGHT?





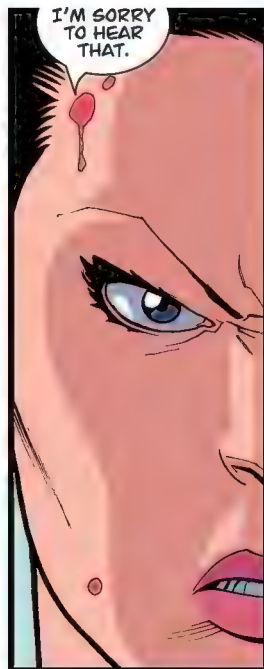
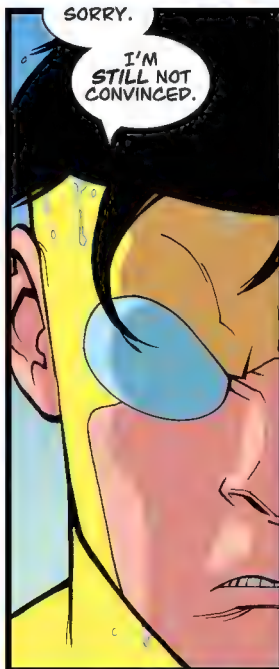
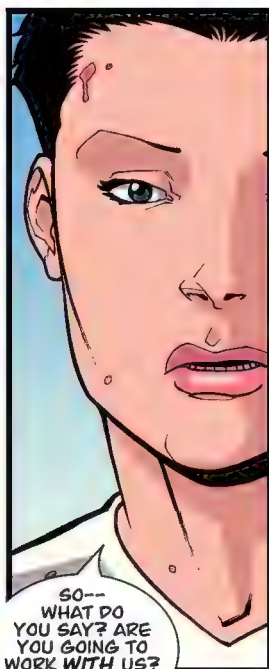
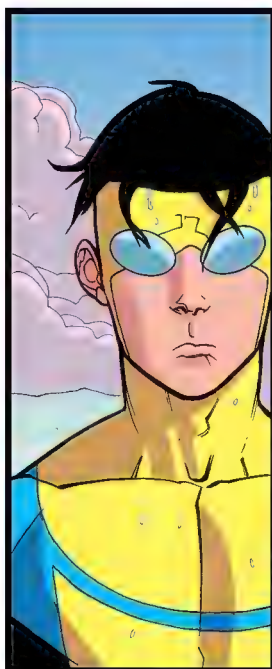
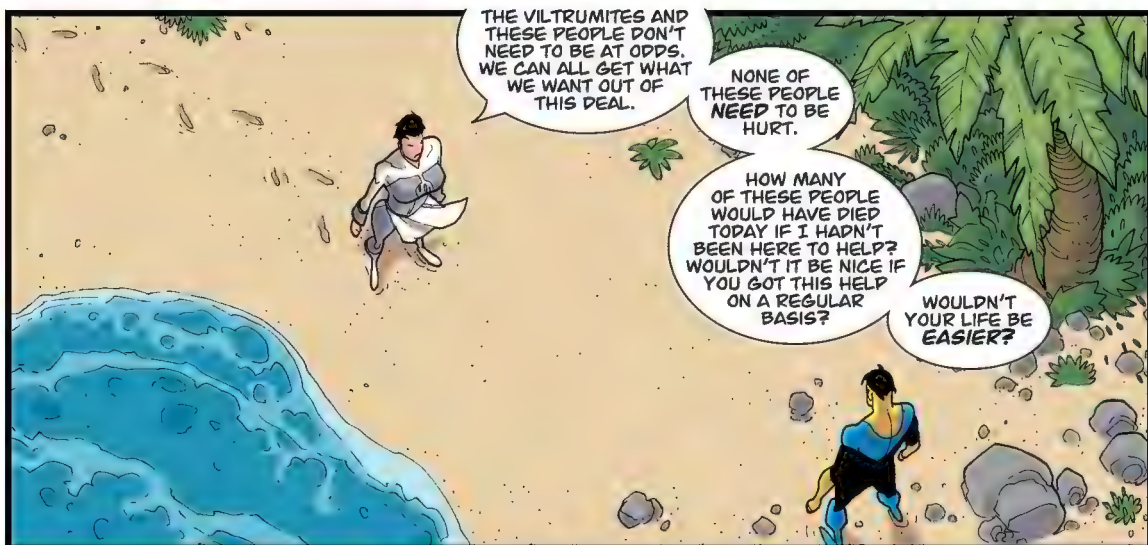


SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

YOU DID
SOME VERY
IMPRESSIVE
WORK
TODAY.



WHO-KOOM!!!

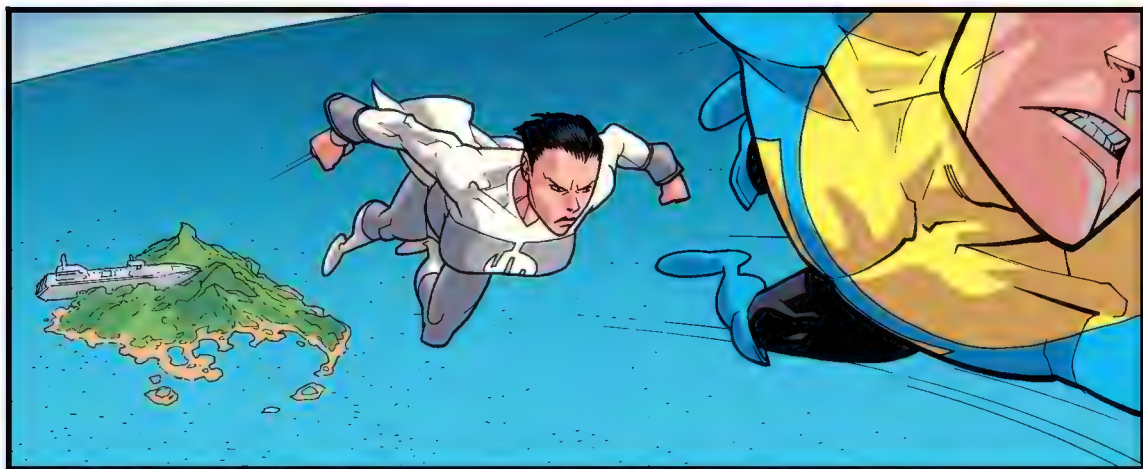
THIS
WASN'T A
NEGOTIATION.



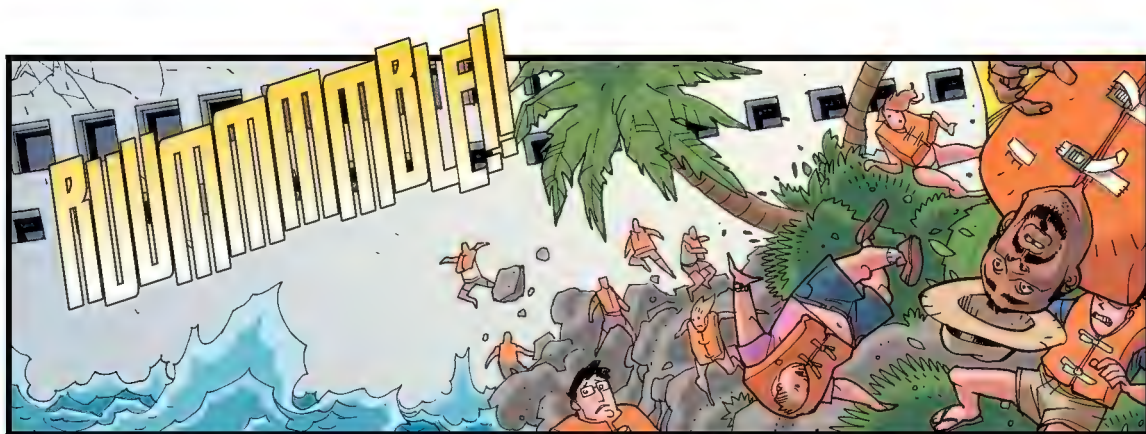


CHAPTER FOUR









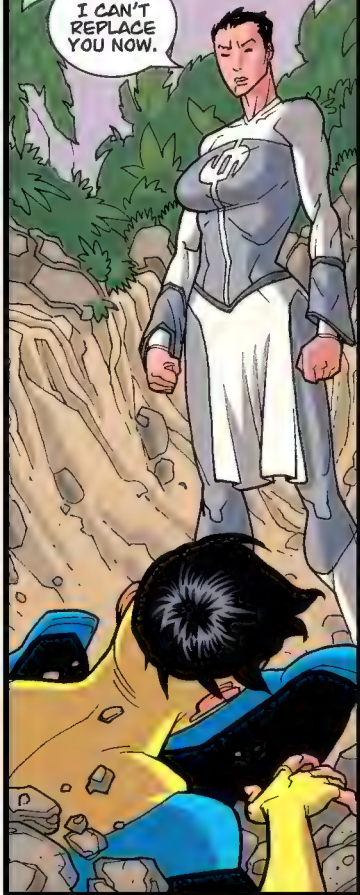


YOU HAVE BEEN APPOINTED THE VILTRUMITE AGENT OF THIS PLANET, CHARGED WITH PREPARING IT FOR EVENTUAL TAKEOVER. THAT IS NOT UP FOR DEBATE.

YOU ARE FREE TO IGNORE YOUR DUTIES BUT THAT WILL BRING CONSEQUENCES.

CURRENTLY OUR RESERVE FORCES ARE OCCUPIED. THIS IS, NO DOUBT, WHY YOU WERE GIVEN THIS ASSIGNMENT TO BEGIN WITH.

SO I CAN'T REPLACE YOU NOW.



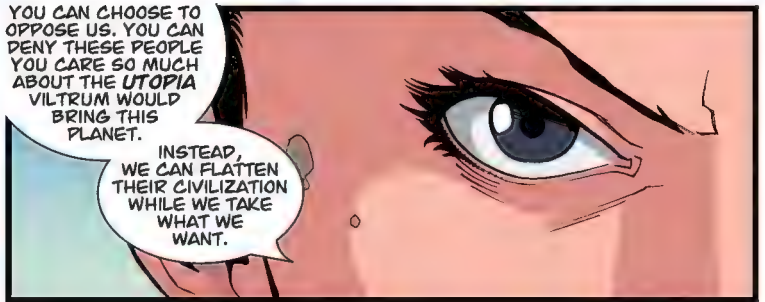
YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH DANGER YOU'RE IN RIGHT NOW.



THAT'S... DISAPPOINTING.

YOU CAN CHOOSE TO OPPOSE US. YOU CAN DENY THESE PEOPLE YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT THE UTOPIA VILTRUM WOULD BRING THIS PLANET.

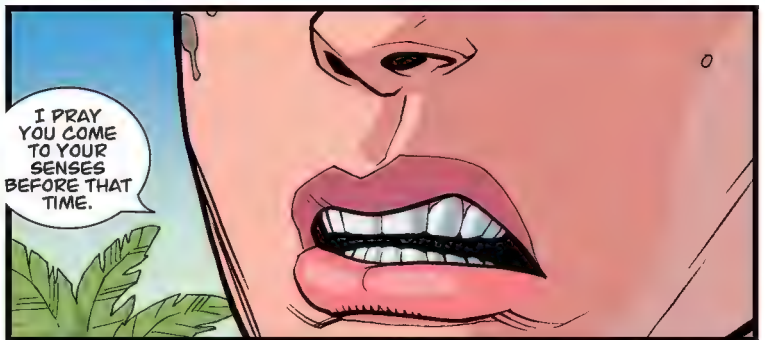
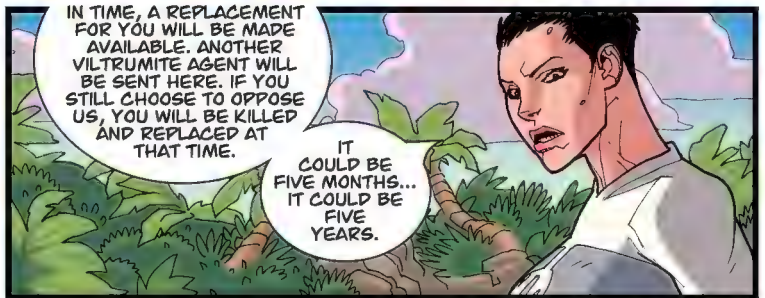
INSTEAD, WE CAN FLATTEN THEIR CIVILIZATION WHILE WE TAKE WHAT WE WANT.



THAT DECISION IS YOURS TO MAKE.

IN TIME, A REPLACEMENT FOR YOU WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE. ANOTHER VILTRUMITE AGENT WILL BE SENT HERE. IF YOU STILL CHOOSE TO OPPOSE US, YOU WILL BE KILLED AND REPLACED AT THAT TIME.

IT COULD BE FIVE MONTHS... IT COULD BE FIVE YEARS.



I PRAY YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES BEFORE THAT TIME.



YEAH,
THANKS.



LIKE I
DON'T HAVE
ENOUGH
TO WORRY
ABOUT.



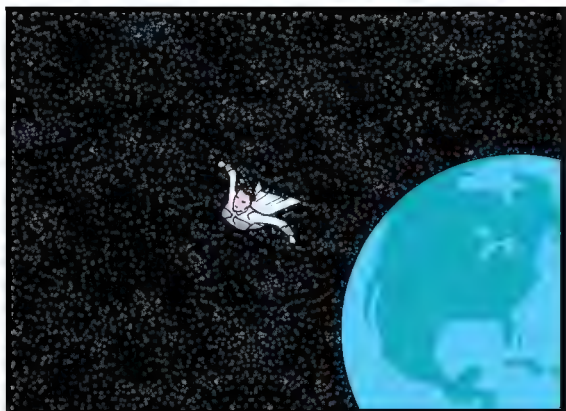
ARE
YOU OKAY,
SIR?

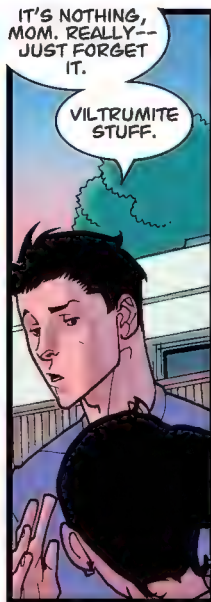
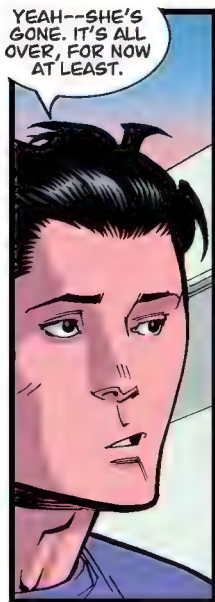


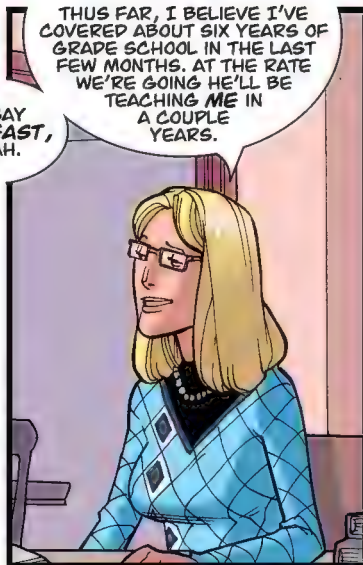
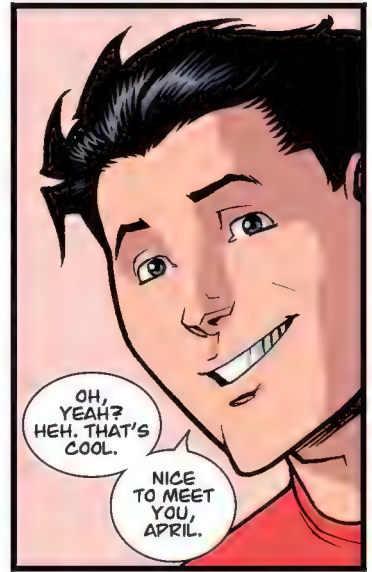
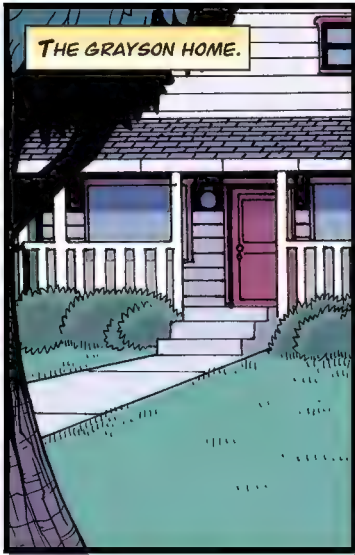
WE WERE
SENT TO ASSIST
YOU. DO YOU
NEED MEDICAL
ATTENTION?

NO--JUST,
CHECK ON THE
PEOPLE IN THE
SHIP, MAKE SURE
THEY'RE OKAY.
I'M ALRIGHT,
I'M--

I'M
FINE.









AT THIS
RATE I SHOULD
GET BACK HOME
IN A FEW DAYS.
NOT BAD REALLY,
I'M MAKING
GOOD TIME.

I WONDER
HOW TELIA IS
DOING. I'M SURE
SHE'S MAD THAT
I'VE BEEN GONE SO
LONG. SHE DOESN'T
REALIZE HOW
IMPORTANT MY
MISSIONS
ARE.

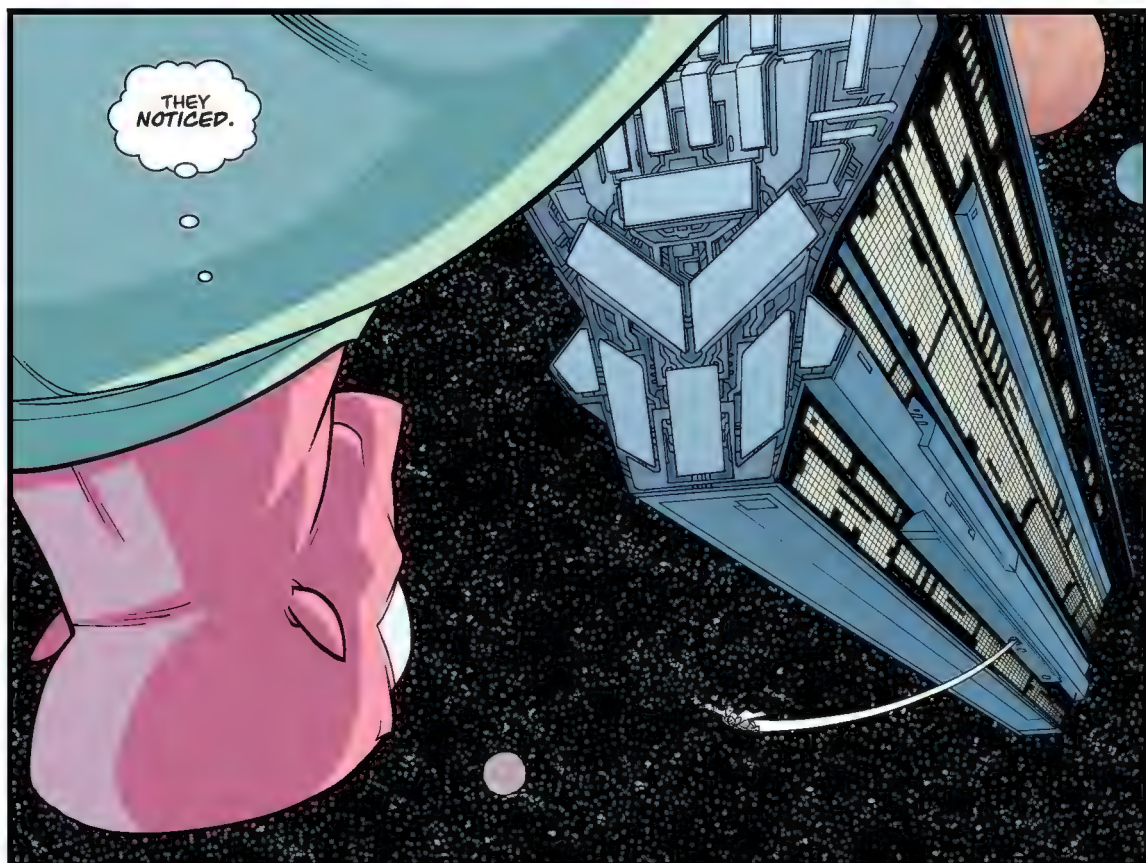
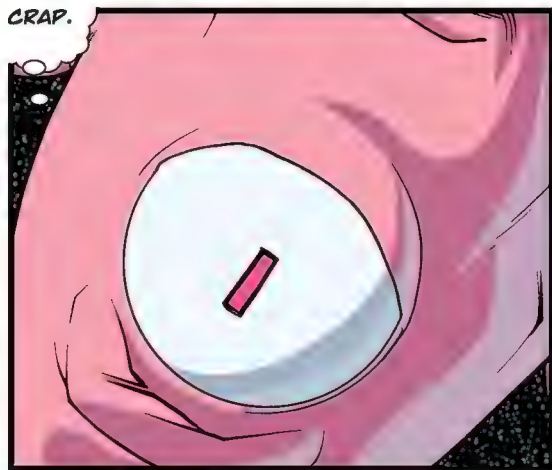
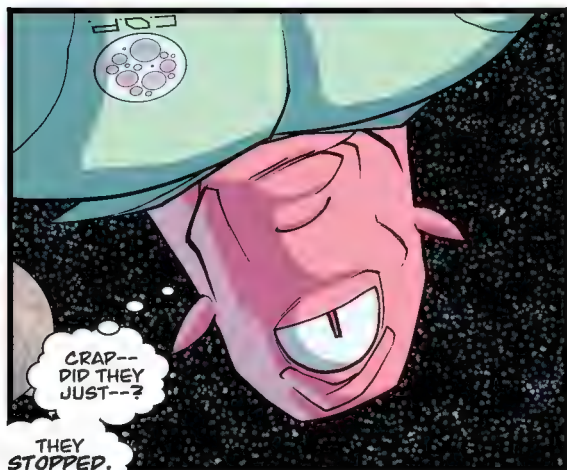


I DO MISS
HER. I LOVE
HER VERY
MUCH.

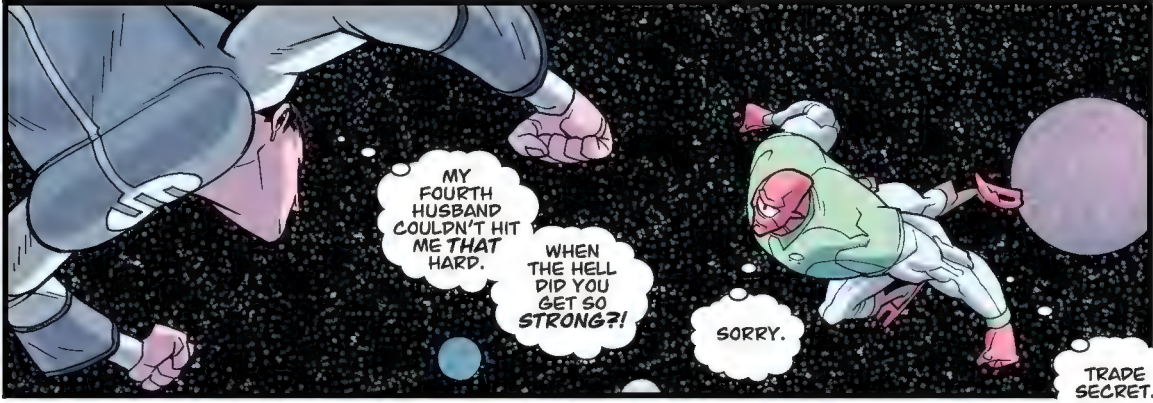
I WISH
MY PEOPLE
WOULD ALLOW ME
TO MARRY HER.
MAYBE NOW THAT
MY POWERS HAVE
BEEN ENHANCED I
COULD CONVINCE
THEM TO
ALLOW IT.

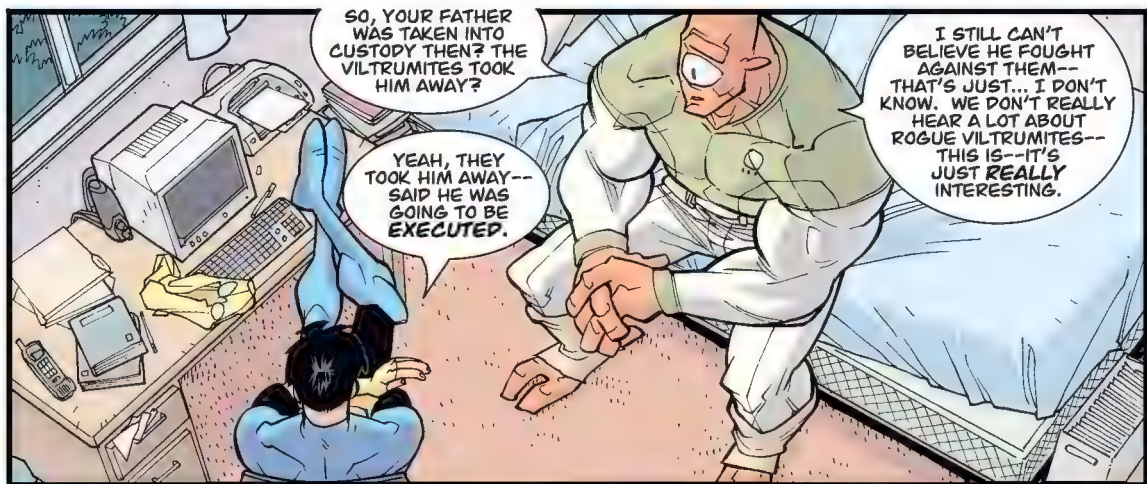
I JUST
HATE LIVING
IN SECRET
SO MUCH.

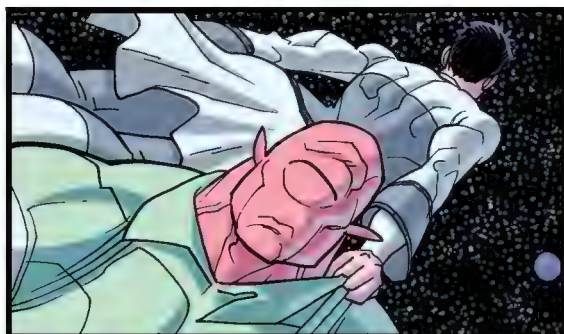
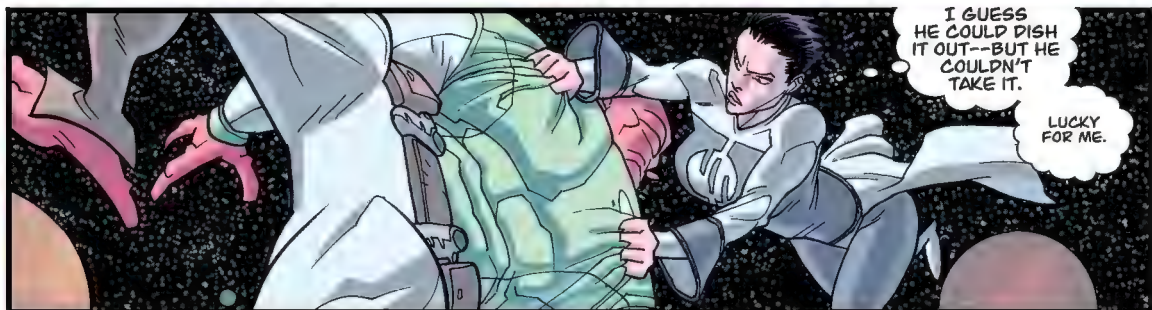
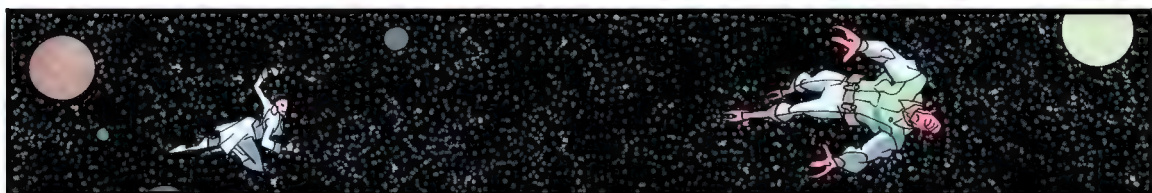


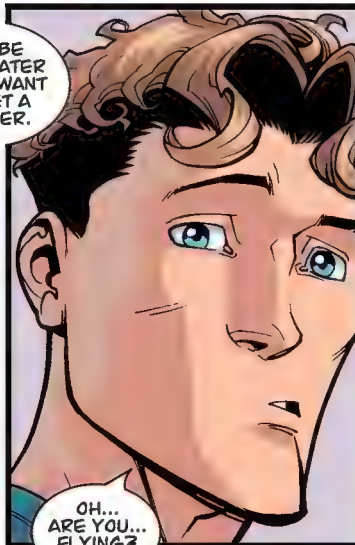
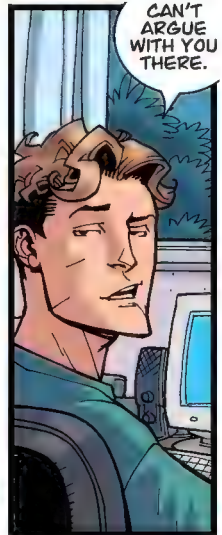
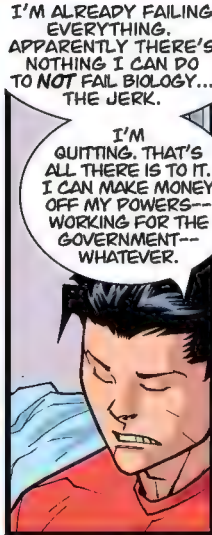
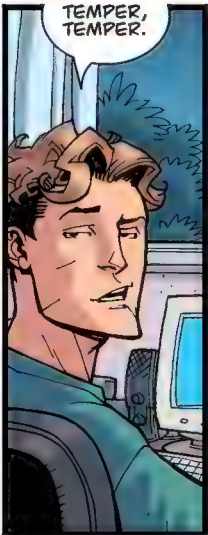


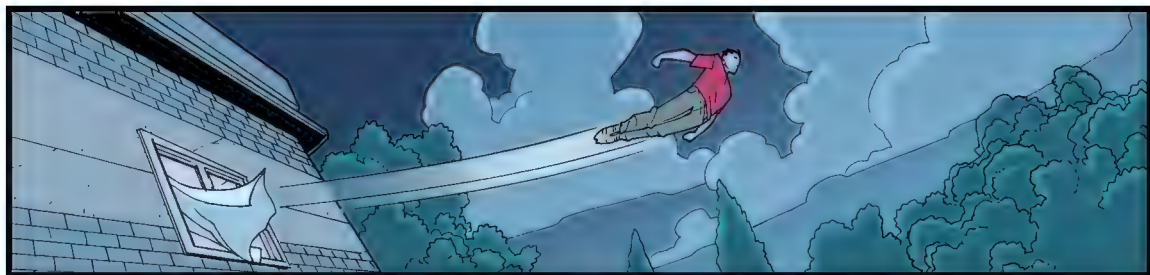












"FIVE YEARS
OR FIVE
MONTHS..."

☹SIGH☹

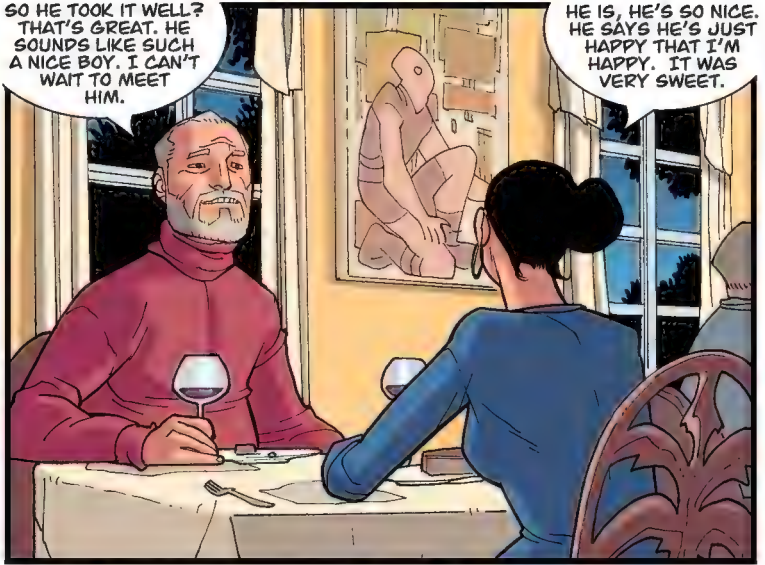
CRAP.

I'M
GOING TO
NEED TO START
WORKING
OUT MORE.



CROCKETT'S GRILL AND FINE EATERY, WHERE DEBBIE GRAYSON IS ENJOYING A NICE EVENING OUT.

SO HE TOOK IT WELL? THAT'S GREAT. HE SOUNDS LIKE SUCH A NICE BOY. I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET HIM.



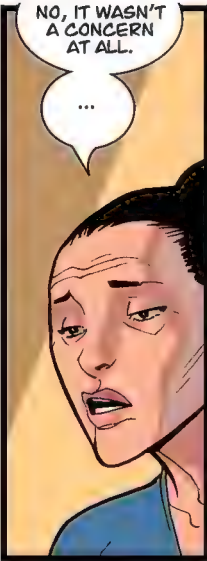
HE IS, HE'S SO NICE. HE SAYS HE'S JUST HAPPY THAT I'M HAPPY. IT WAS VERY SWEET.

HE DIDN'T THINK IT WAS TOO SOON... AFTER YOUR HUSBAND...?



I KNOW THAT WAS YOUR MAIN CONCERN.

NO, IT WASN'T A CONCERN AT ALL.



...

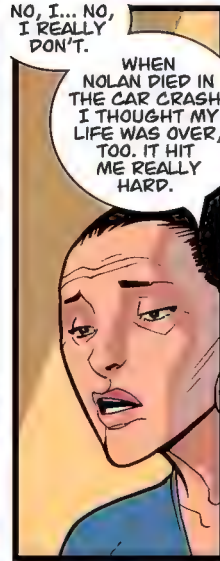
DEBBIE...

...DO YOU THINK IT'S TOO SOON?



NO, I... NO, I REALLY DON'T.

WHEN NOLAN DIED IN THE CAR CRASH, I THOUGHT MY LIFE WAS OVER, TOO. IT HIT ME REALLY HARD.



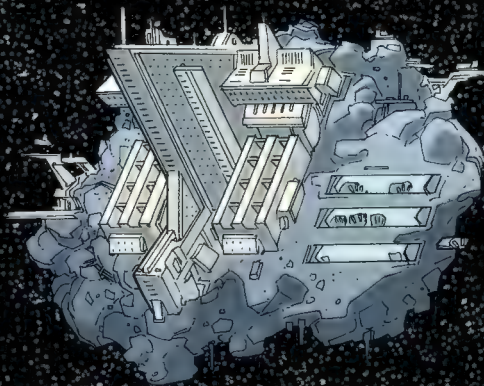
BUT AS TIME HAS GONE ON, THE THINGS I'VE LEARNED SINCE HIS DEATH...

...ABOUT HIM... ABOUT US...



THE THING THAT UPSETS ME THE MOST IS KNOWING THAT HE NEVER REALLY LOVED ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.

VILTRUMITE PRISON,
EXACT LOCATION
UNKNOWN.



NOLAN,
FRIEND. YOU
SEEM
TROUBLED.

WHAT
IS IT THAT
TROUBLES
YOU SO?



MY SPINE IS HEALING,
I'M CLOSER TO
PERFECTION EVERY DAY.
ONCE I AM WORTHY
OF EXECUTION MY
LIFE WILL BE
TAKEN.

IS THAT
NOT REASON
ENOUGH
FOR MY
MOOD?



WE HAVE SHARED
THIS CELL FOR SOME
TIME NOW AND THAT
IS SOMETHING YOU
HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN.
TODAY IS
DIFFERENT.

IT IS
OBVIOUS TO
ME THAT THIS
IS SOMETHING
NEW THAT
TROUBLES
YOU.



I--



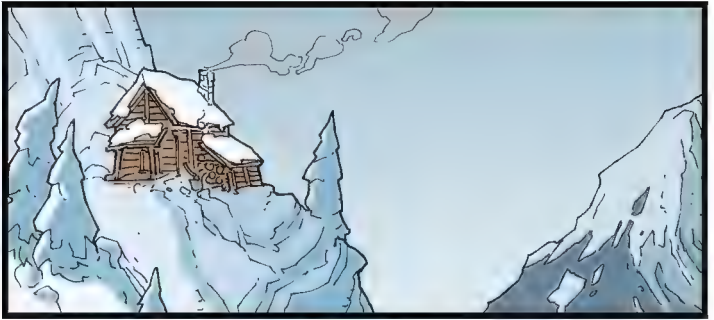


I THINK
I MISS MY
WIFE.



CHAPTER FIVE







I'M
SORRY I
NEVER TOLD
YOU. I
NEVER TOLD
ANYONE.

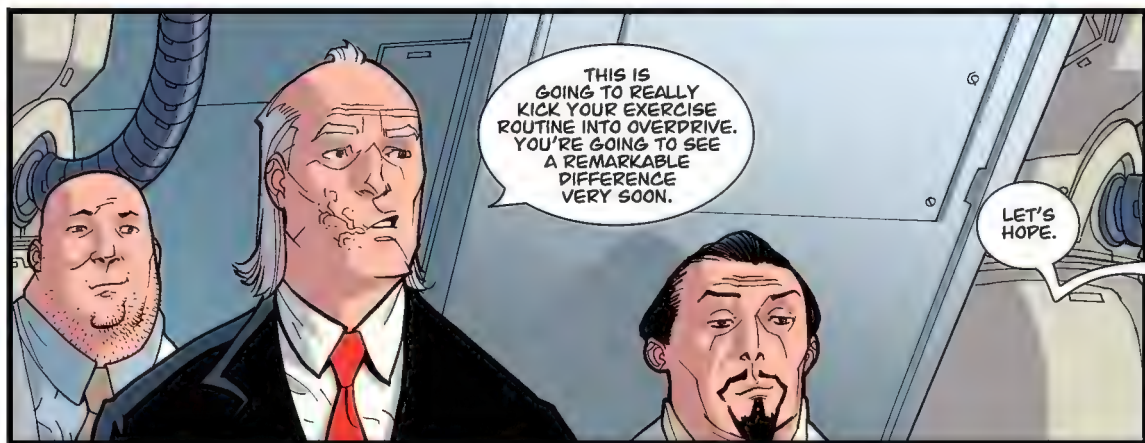
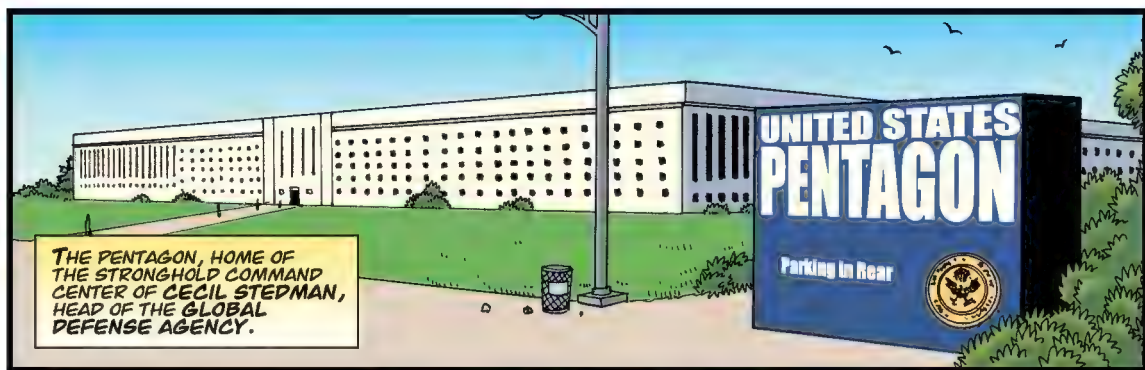
I HAD A
CLOSE CALL
ONCE--DECIDED
THEN AND THERE I'D
ALWAYS LIVE LIFE
THROUGH A COPY,
NEVER LEAVING MYSELF
EXPOSED. ALL MY COPIES
SHARE THE SAME
CONSCIOUSNESS, ALL
PART OF THE SAME
PERSON--IT'S HARD
TO EXPLAIN.

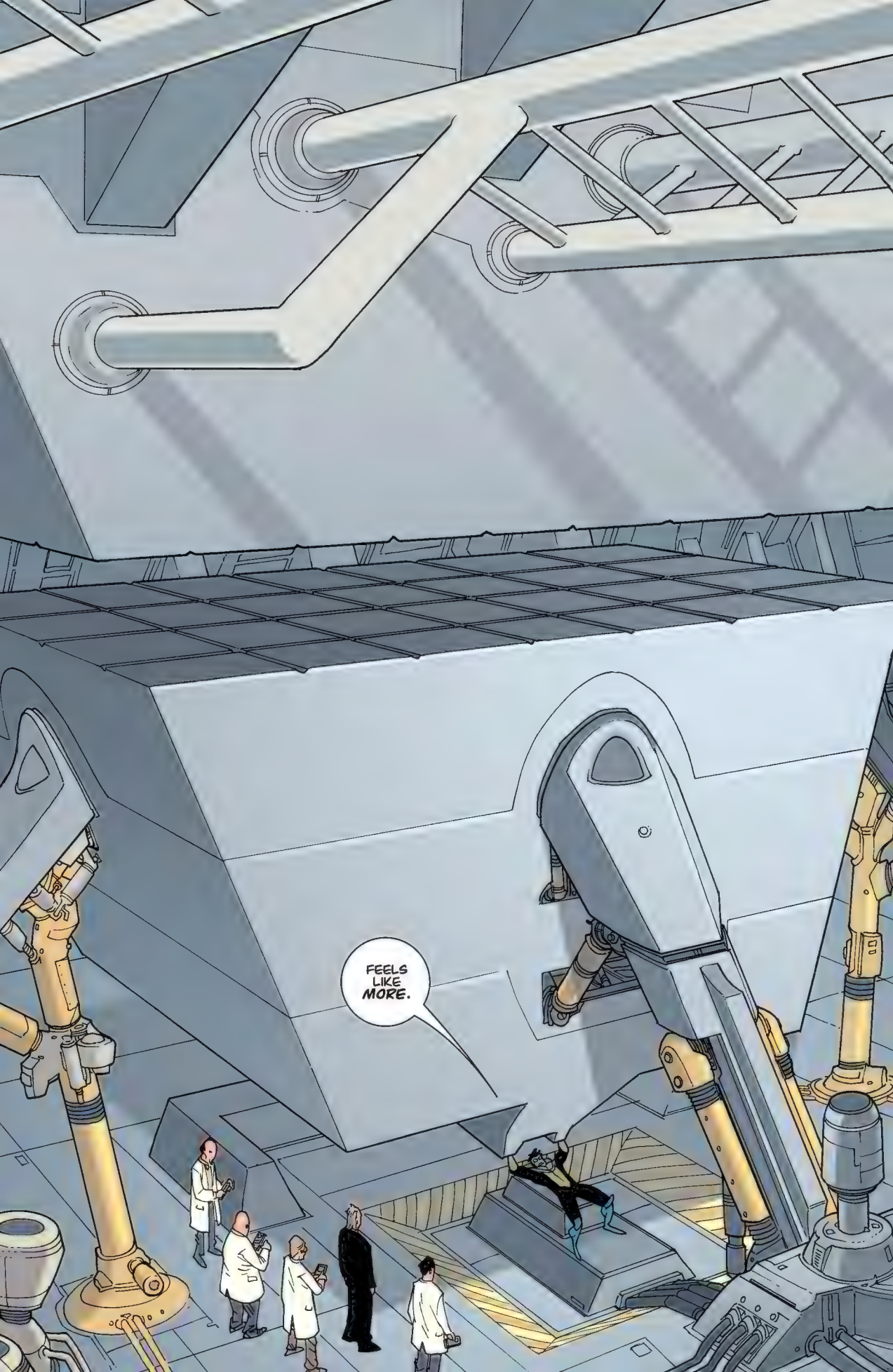
BUT I
TRUST YOU NOW...
AND I'M SORRY I
PUT YOU THROUGH
WHAT I DID. IT TOOK
ME A LONG TIME TO
GET OUT OF MY
SANCTUARY.



I NEED
YOUR
HELP.

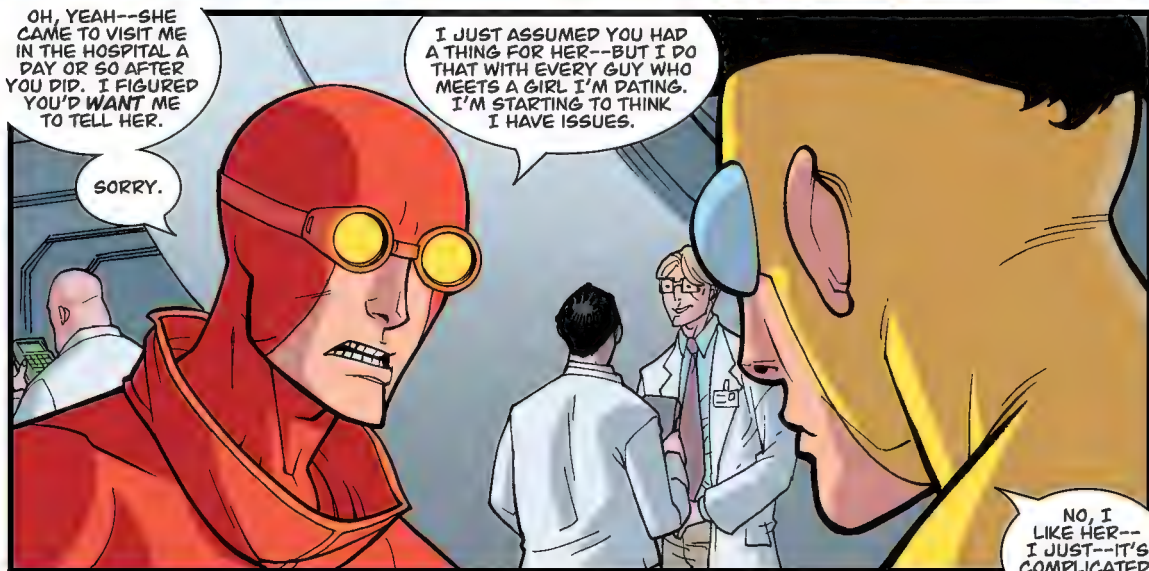
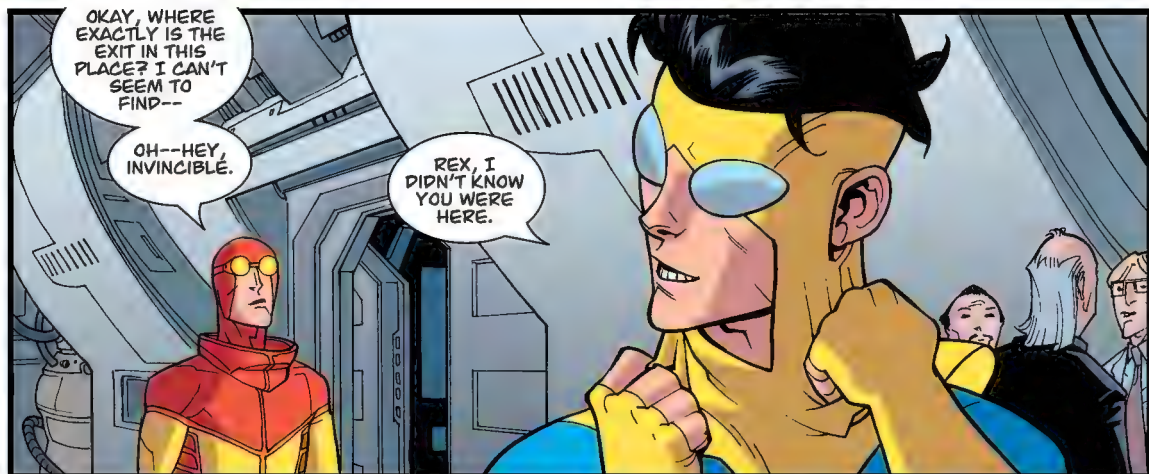
WE'VE
GOT TO STOP
MY BROTHER
BEFORE HE DOES
SOMETHING
STUPID.

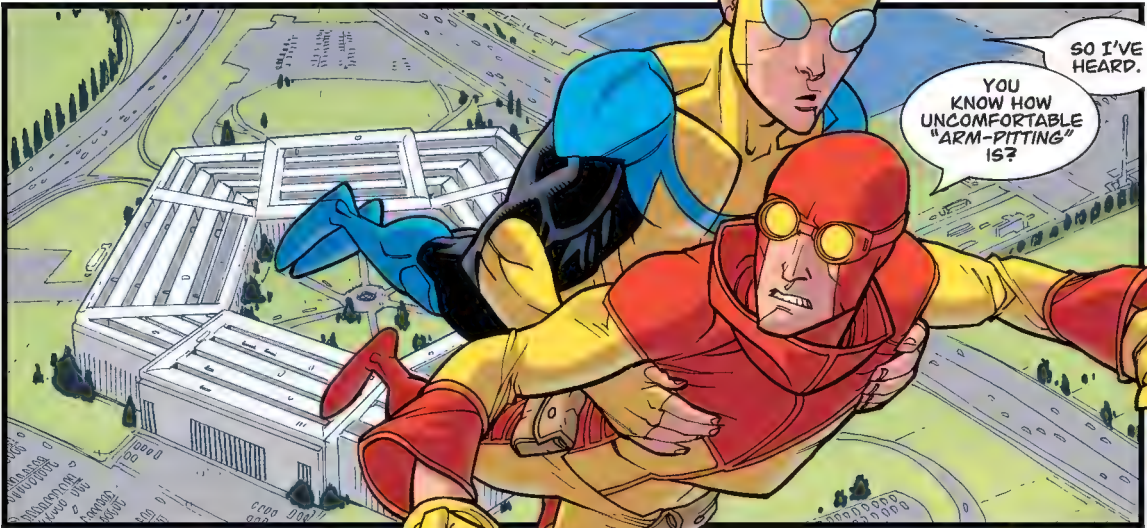
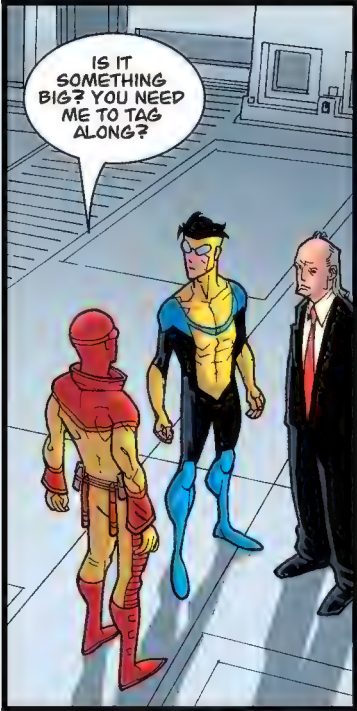




FEELS
LIKE
MORE.







ACROSS TOWN--
THE SMITHSONIAN.

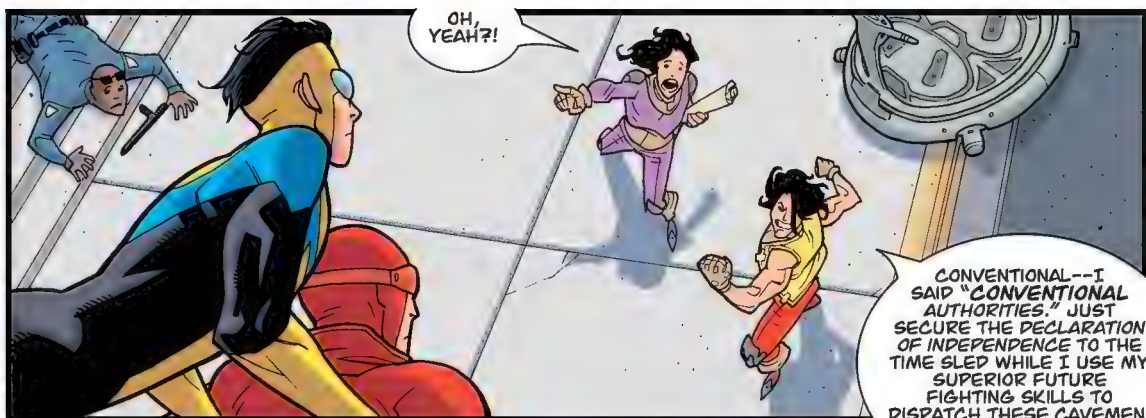
QUICK,
QUICK, QUICK--
WE GOTTA GET
AWAY FROM
THESE GOONS
AND GET ON
THE MOVE.

C'MON,
FIGHTMASTER,
I'M SERIOUS! GET IN,
GET OUT--THAT WAS
THE PLAN. WE CAN'T
RISK BEING DETECTED
HERE, WE'VE GOT
TO PRESERVE THE
TIMELINE!

DROP KICK,
PLEASE--CALM
DOWN. I KNOW WHAT
I'M DOING. IT'LL BE
AT LEAST TWO POINT
NINE MORE MINUTES
BEFORE THE CONVENTIONAL
AUTHORITIES OF THIS
TIME PERIOD
RESPOND.



OH,
YEAH?!



CONVENTIONAL--I
SAID "CONVENTIONAL
AUTHORITIES," JUST
SECURE THE DECLARATION
OF INDEPENDENCE TO THE
TIME SLED WHILE I USE MY
SUPERIOR FUTURE
FIGHTING SKILLS TO
DISPATCH THESE CAVEMEN!

SO AM I GATHERING THAT YOU'RE NOT GETTING TOGETHER WITH EVE? BECAUSE I'VE BEEN WITH EVE--AND IF I THOUGHT I COULD PATCH THINGS UP BETWEEN US, I WOULD.

SHE'S AWESOME!

LOOK, I--TALKING ABOUT THIS WITH YOU IS WEIRD. YOU GUYS DATED FOR HOW LONG?

OH, FAST.

THREE YEARS... ALMOST. WE WERE CRIME-FIGHTING PARTNERS FOR A LITTLE BIT BEFORE WE DATED--BUT I USUALLY COUNT THAT TIME.

TRUST ME, THOUGH--SHE HATES ME NOW. WE'RE COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY THROUGH. I BLEW IT.

KRAK!

SO NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, DUDE!

KROOM!

I DON'T KNOW, MAN-- I MAY HAVE BLOWN IT, TOO. I APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT BUT I JUST DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO WORK OUT.

MAN, YOU'RE FAST!

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL--YOU LIKE HER, SHE LIKES YOU... YOU WANT TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN, RIGHT?

BY THE WAY, MINE'S DOWN--MISTER "I DON'T NEED REX'S HELP."

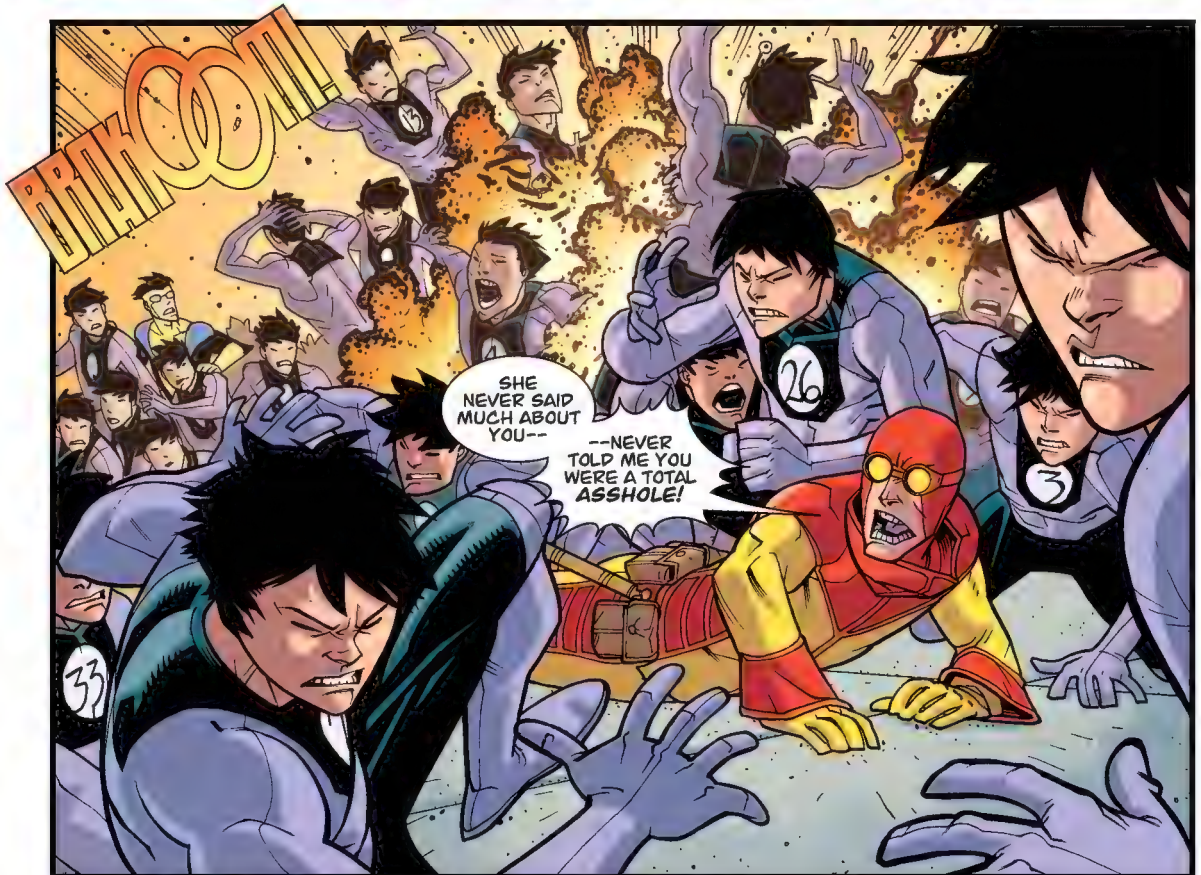
I DO--I'VE JUST GOT A LOT GOING ON RIGHT NOW--LIKE THIS FIGHT, FOR INSTANCE.

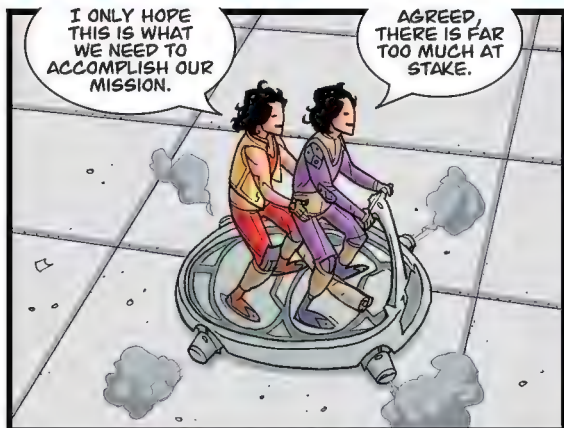
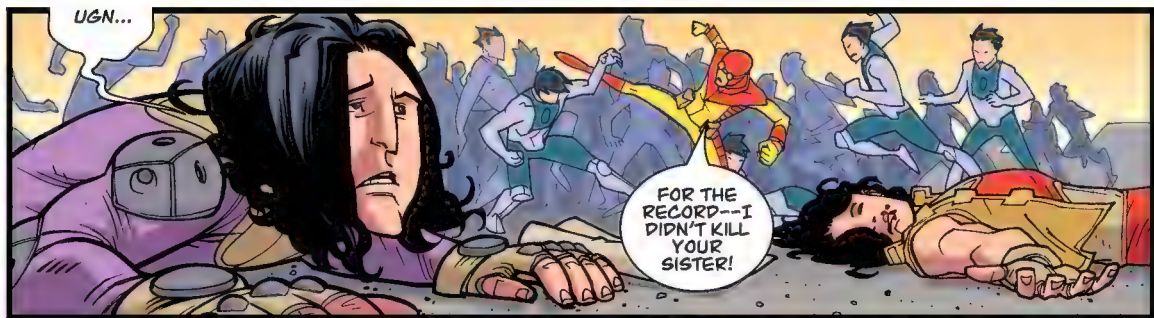
I'VE GOT TO HOLD BACK, I DON'T WANT TO KILL THIS GUY, AND I CAN'T MOVE AS FAST WHEN I HOLD BACK.

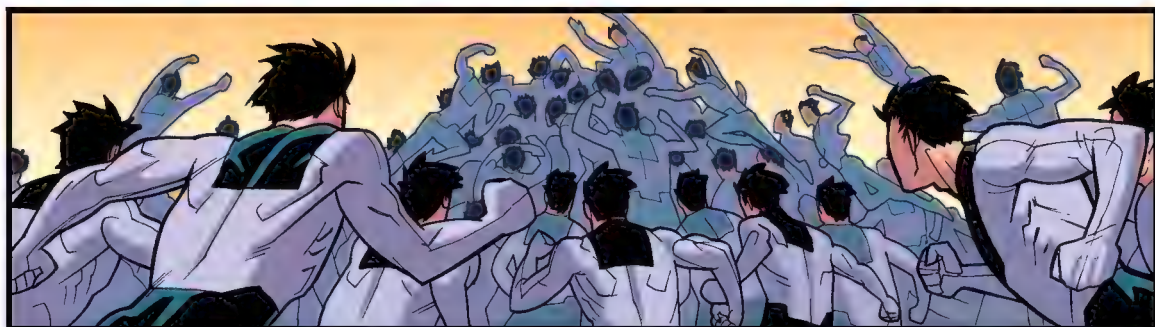
HOW POWERFUL WAS THAT EXPLOSION-- YOURS IS STILL ALIVE, RIGHT?

WHUPP!

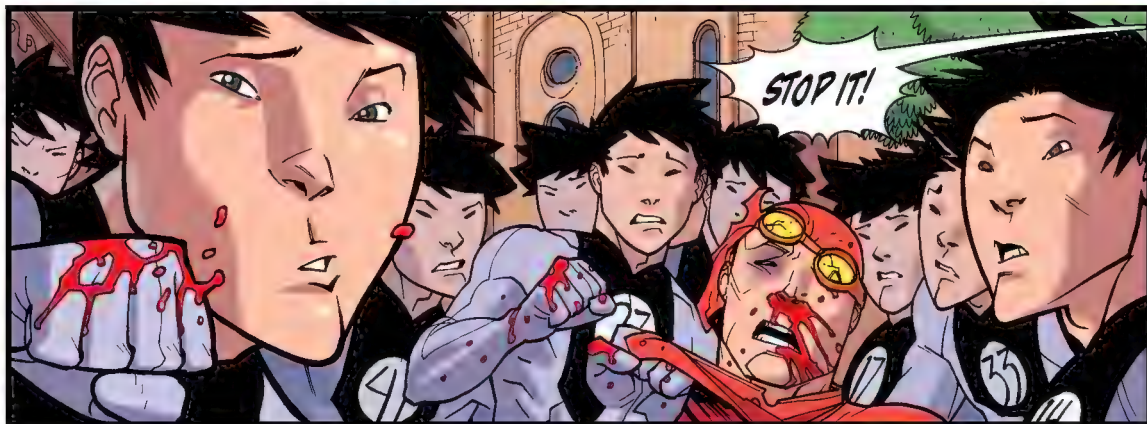
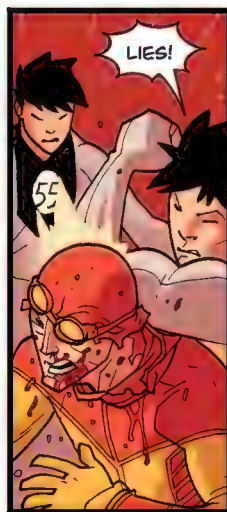
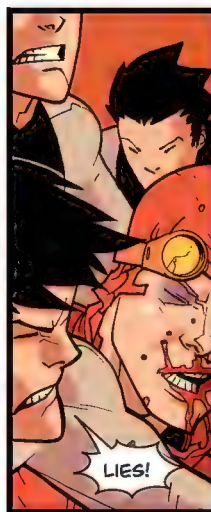
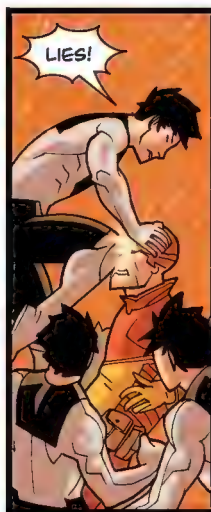
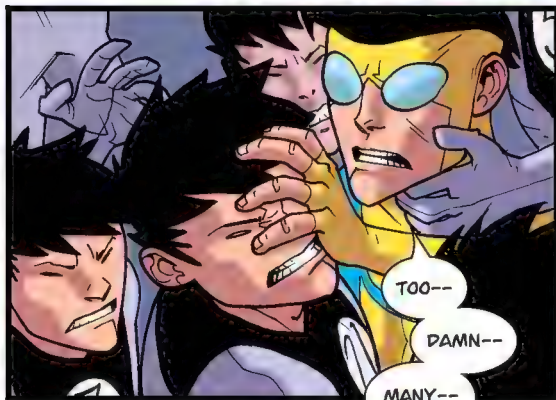












WHAT
THE HELL,
PAUL?!

HAVE YOU
GONE **CRAZY**?
STOP THIS--THESE
ARE MY FRIENDS.
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE
A MANIAC.



SHE'S
ALIVE.



NEW
COSTUME--
NICE.



TALK TO ME,
PAUL. THIS
ISN'T LIKE
YOU.

I LOST
YOU, SISTER.
I HADN'T SEEN
YOU IN SO LONG,
BECAUSE OF MY...
WORK. I FELT
SO GUILTY WHEN
I'D HEARD
YOU'D DIED.

I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU'D
TAKEN MY ADVICE AND
HIDDEN YOUR **ZERO** TO
ONLY LIVE THROUGH
YOUR ONE... I'D HOPED
YOU HAD, BUT SO MUCH
TIME HAD PASSED
AFTER YOUR
DEATH...

YOU KNOW I NEVER
LIKED THIS REX PERSON...
FROM WHAT YOU WROTE
TO ME, HE IS A HORRIBLE
PERSON. I STILL DON'T
BELIEVE HE HAD NO
INVOLVEMENT WITH
YOUR DEATHS.
I DON'T TRUST
HIM.

HEY!



SHE CAN TELL YOU--
RIGHT NOW, TELL HIM,
KATE. I DIDN'T HAVE
ANYTHING TO DO WITH
KILLING YOU.

TELL
HIM!

DON'T SPEAK TO
HER THAT WAY!
I'LL FINISH WHAT
I STARTED--

PAUL,
STOP IT.
THIS ISN'T
THE TIME
FOR--

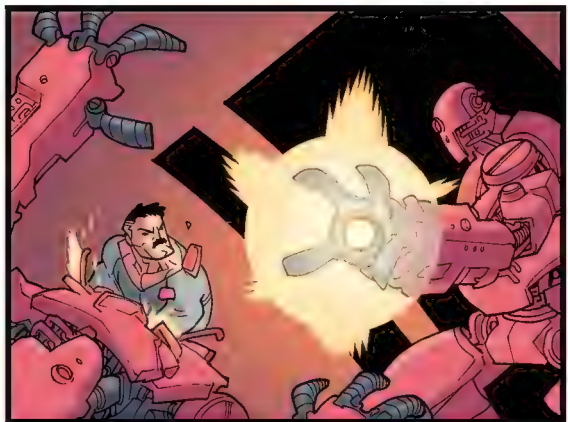
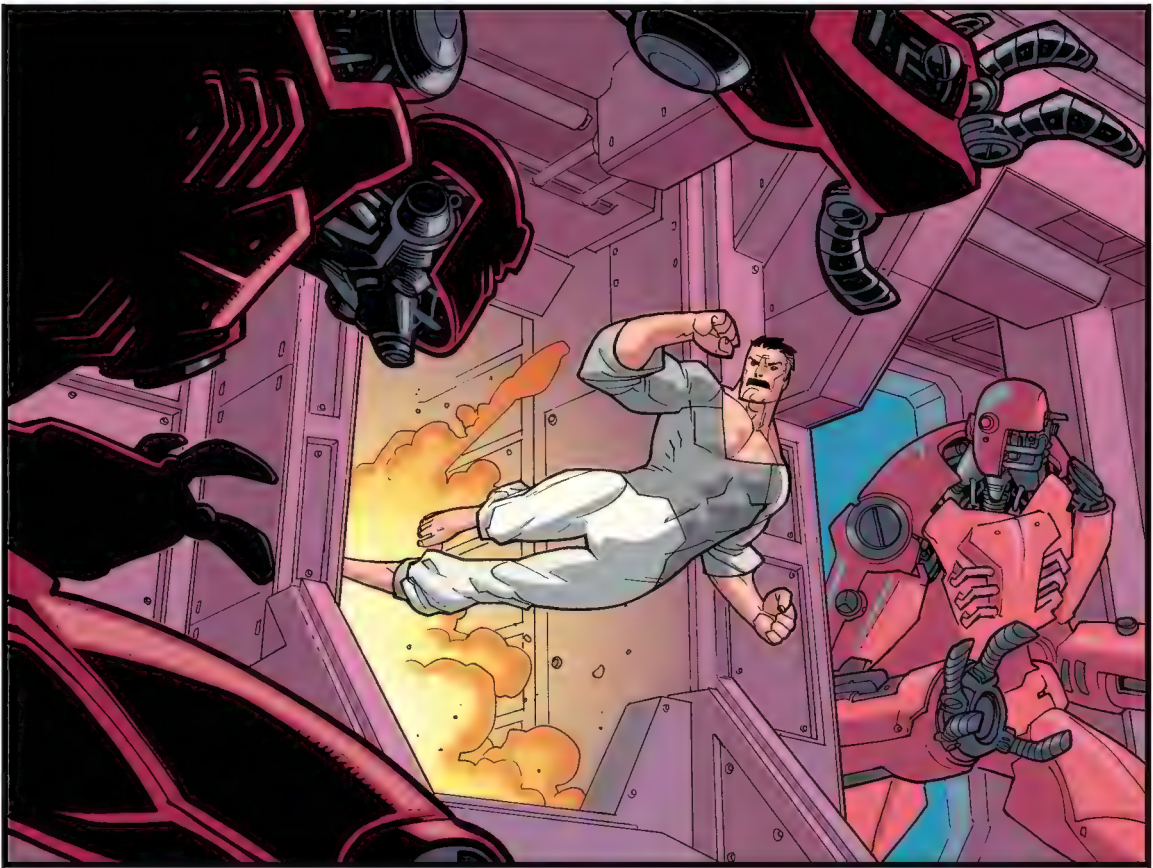


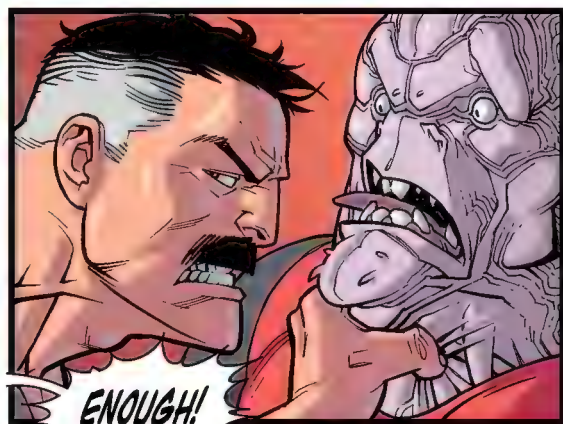
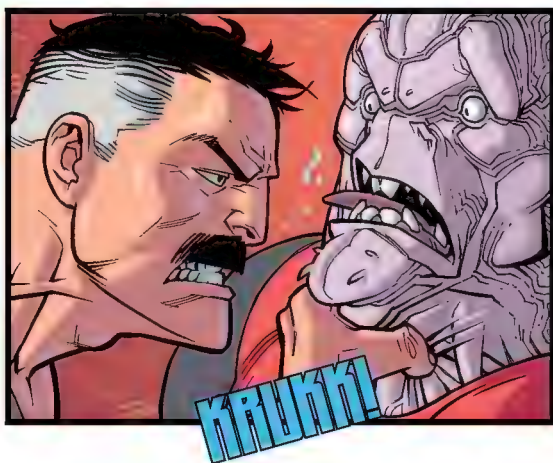
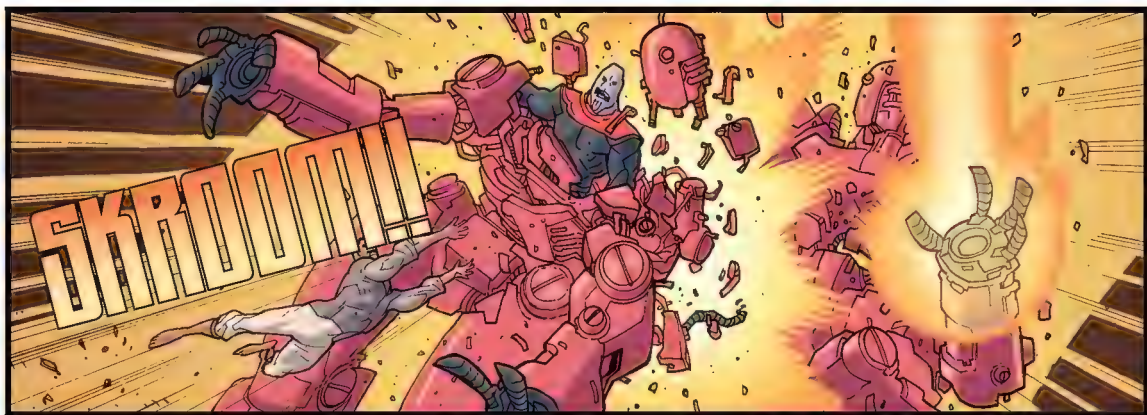
OKAY,
THAT'S IT--

BACK OFF,
IMMORTAL.

TAKE A
SECOND TO
LOOK AROUND
YOU, KATE. YOU
SEE WHAT YOUR
BROTHER HAS
CAUSED?









THAT WILL
BE QUITE
ENOUGH.



GENERAL KREGG,
I DIDN'T EXPECT
YOU TO COME DOWN
HERE YOURSELF...
I'M IMPRESSED.



YOU KNOW
I WOULDN'T
MISS THIS.

YOU
FLATTER
ME.



I'VE BEEN
WATCHING YOUR
SESSION FROM THE
OBSERVATION DECK.
YOU'LL BE HAPPY
TO KNOW YOU'VE
PASSED
INSPECTION.

YOUR
EXECUTION
IS BEING
SCHEDULED
NOW.

...YOU'LL
BE PUT TO
DEATH!

IT'S ONLY
A MATTER OF
TIME, NOW. SOON,
VERY SOON, FOR THE
DISGRACE YOU'VE
CAUSED US...



CHAPTER SIX



VILTRUMITE PRISON,
EXACT LOCATION
UNKNOWN.

THE COUNCIL STATES THAT
IN ORDER FOR A VILTRUMITE
TO BE EXECUTED... HE MUST
BE COMPLETELY WHOLE AND
INTACT, WORTHY TO
STAND AND FACE THE END
OF HIS LIFE AT FULL
STRENGTH.

BUT
THEY SAID
NOTHING OF
BRUISES.

TAKE
HIM BACK
TO HIS
CELL.

YES,
OFFICER
KREGG, AT
ONCE.

NO--

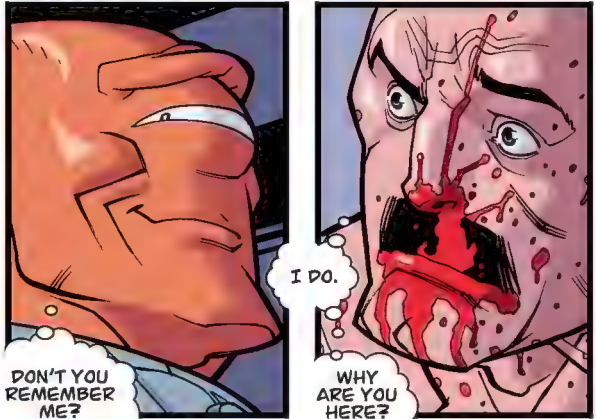
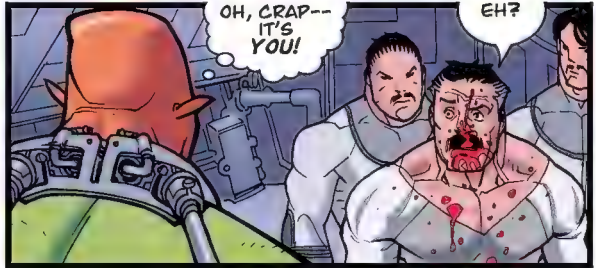
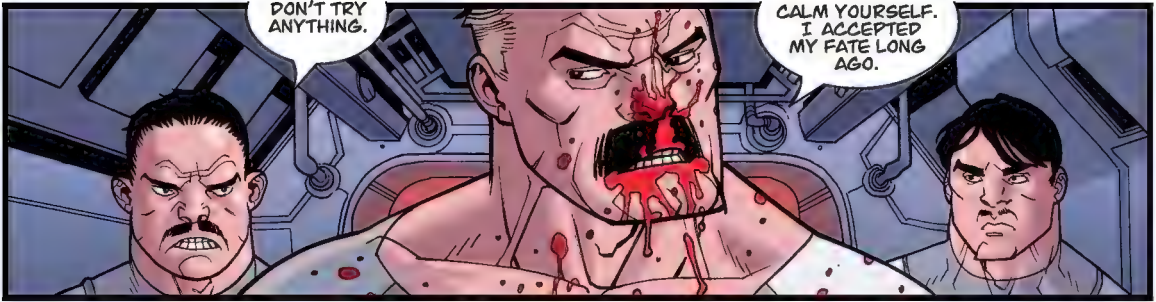
SIR, PLEASE. MY
FATHER USED TO
TELL STORIES OF
YOUR ADVENTURES
BEFORE MY
ENLISTMENT.

WHEN I
HEARD YOU
WENT ROGUE--
I REFUSED TO
BELIEVE IT.
THIS IS HARD
ENOUGH ALREADY,
DON'T MAKE
ME HAVE TO
HURT YOU.

I JUST
WISHED TO
STAND.

I'LL
WALK OUT
OF HERE
ON MY
OWN.

WAIT.

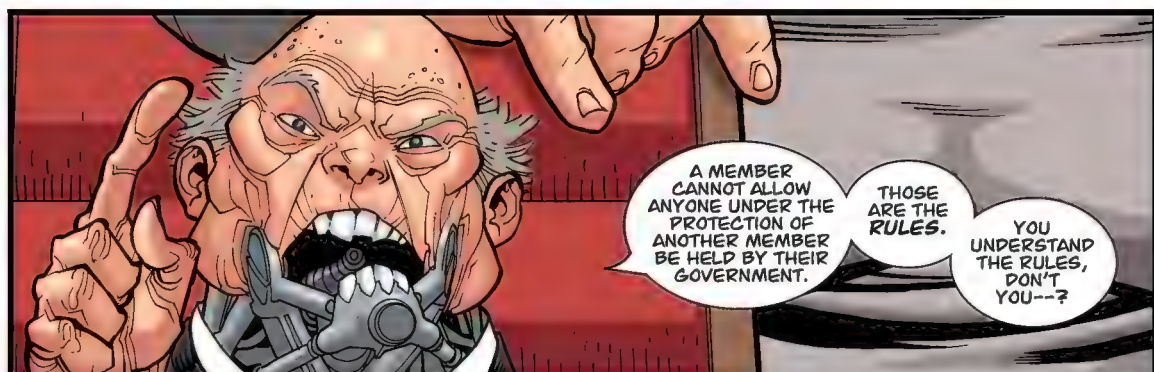


BACK ON EARTH.

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE! MULTI-PAUL WAS A DIRECT AGENT OF MY ORGANIZATION. THE FACT THAT HE IS INCARCERATED HERE ON AMERICAN SOIL IS A TRAVESTY!

AN INSULT!

YOUR PREDECESSOR KNEW WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ORDER. THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT JUST AREN'T DONE.



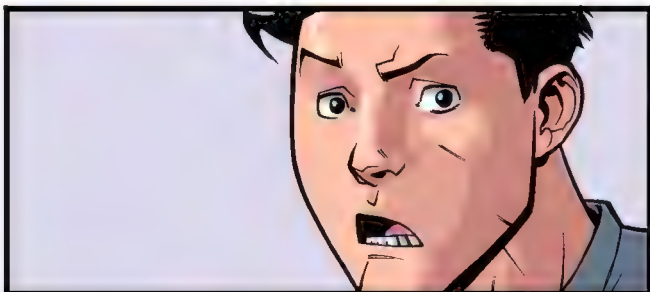
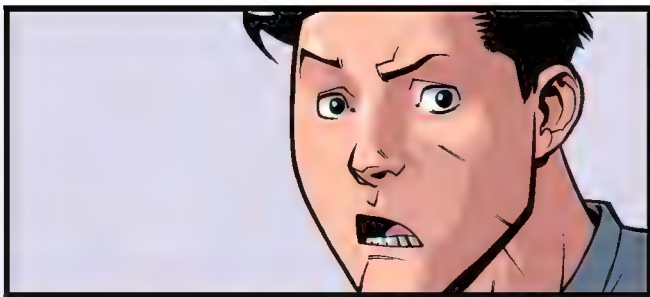
A MEMBER CANNOT ALLOW ANYONE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF ANOTHER MEMBER BE HELD BY THEIR GOVERNMENT.

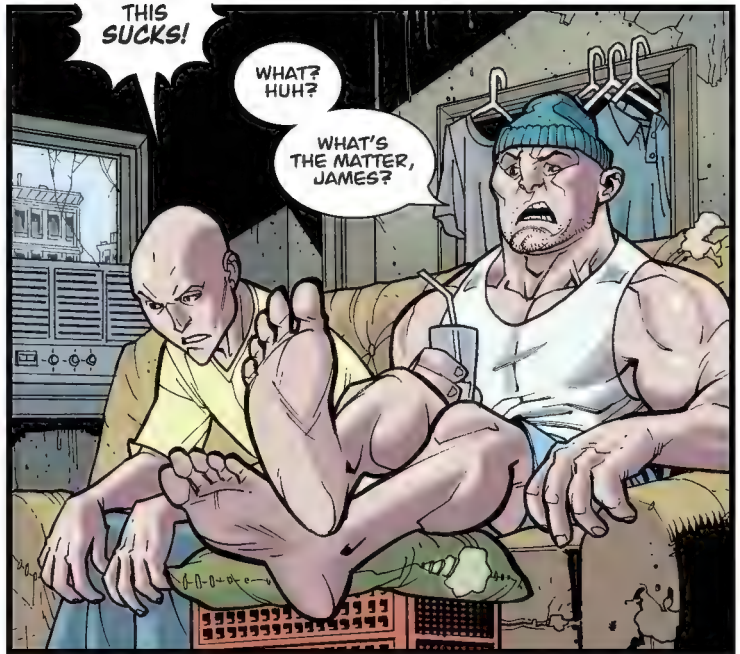
THOSE ARE THE RULES.

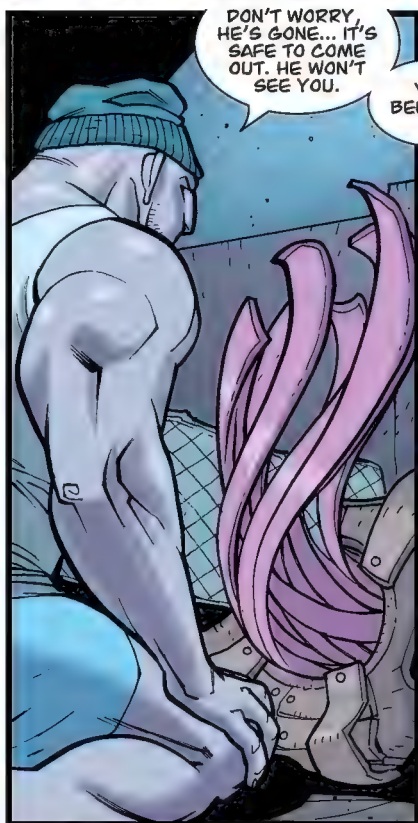
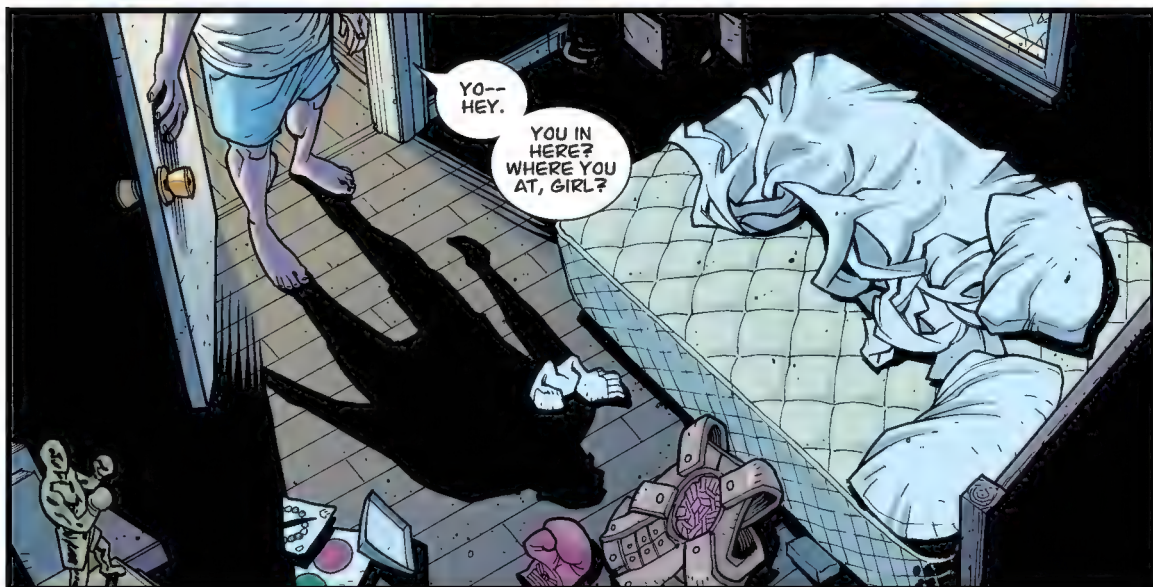
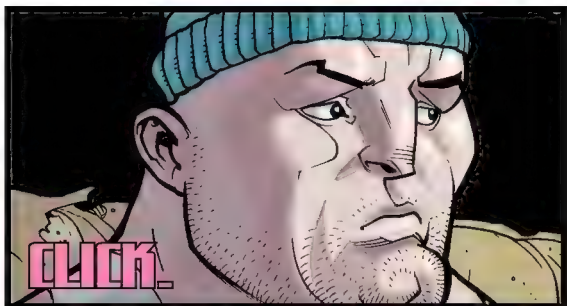
YOU UNDERSTAND THE RULES, DON'T YOU--?







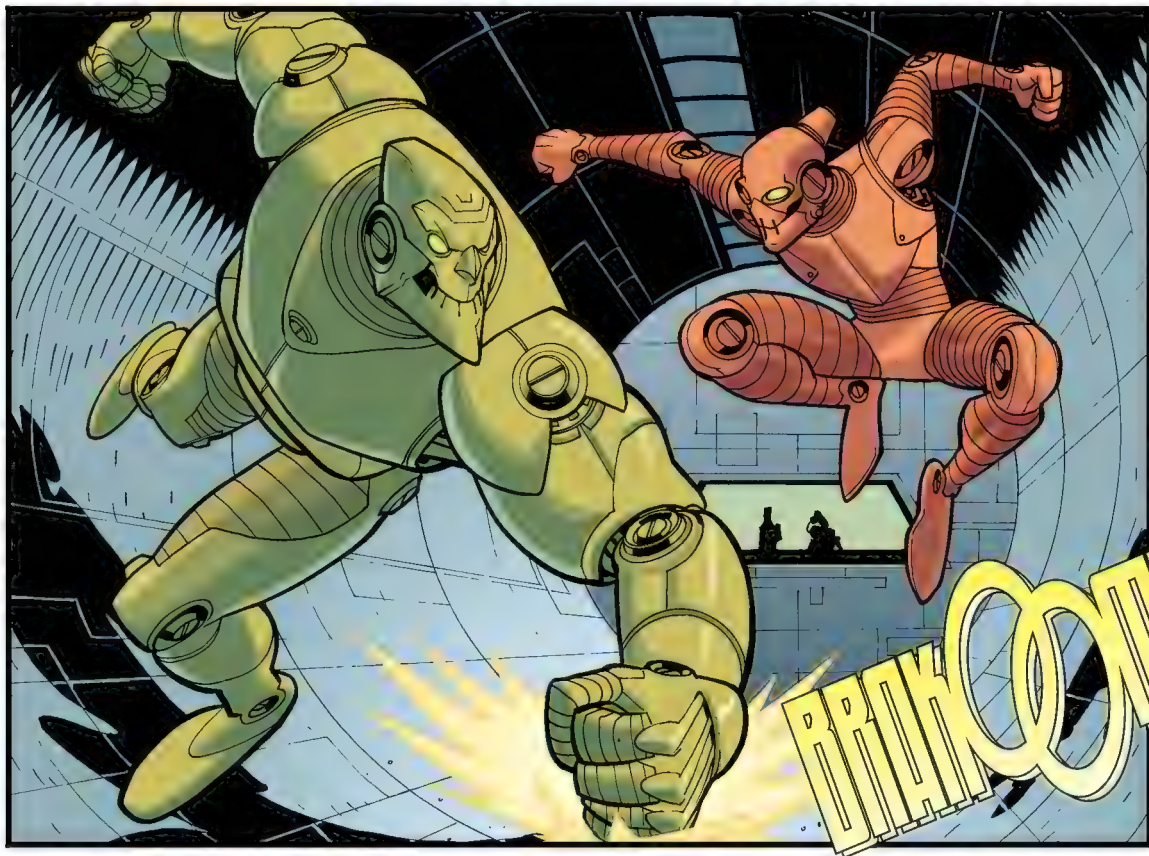
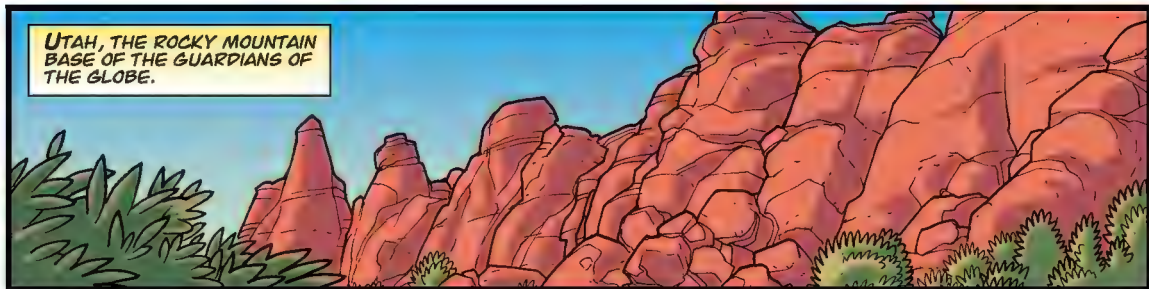




SOON.

BUT SOON... OKAY?

UTAH, THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN
BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF
THE GLOBE.



THAT'S IT, AMANDA--KEEP
IT UP. YOU WERE
PRETTY CLOSE
THAT TIME. YOU'RE
IMPROVING.

NOT
FAST
ENOUGH
I'M NOT.

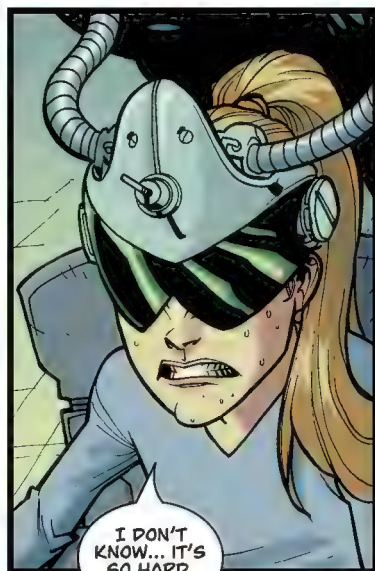


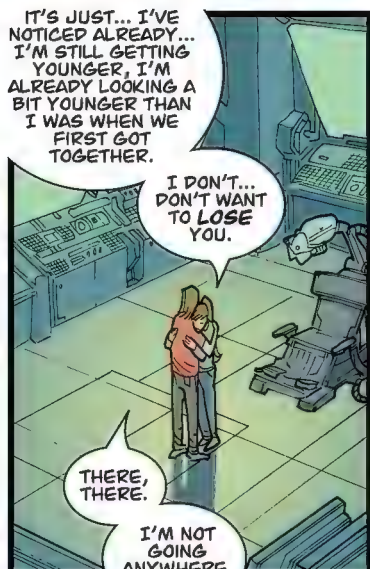
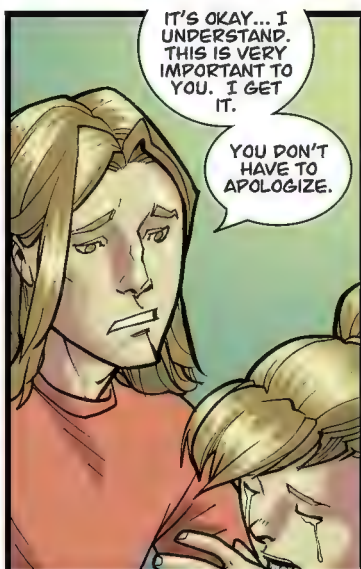
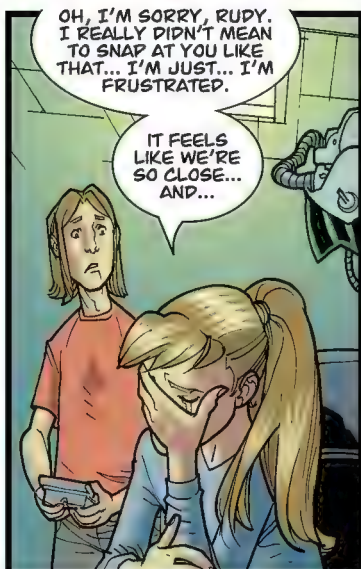
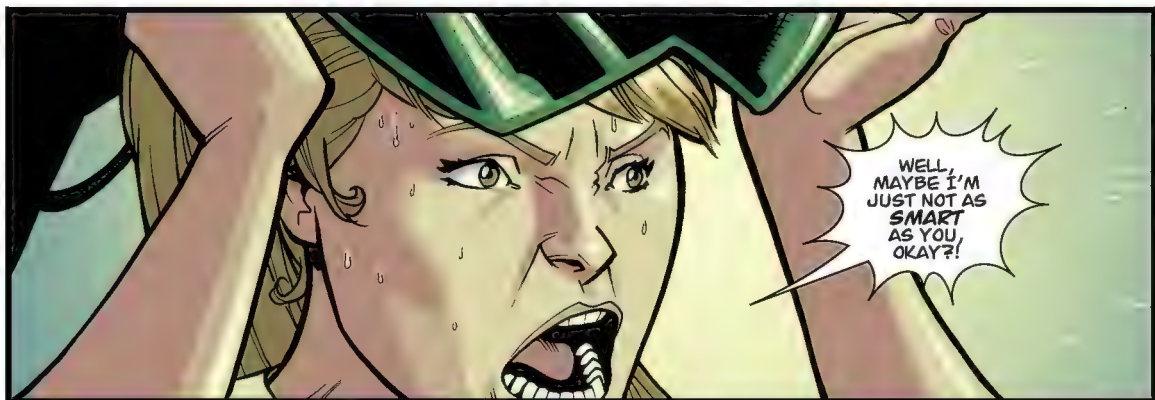
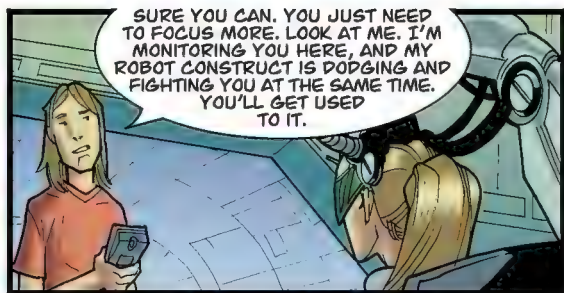
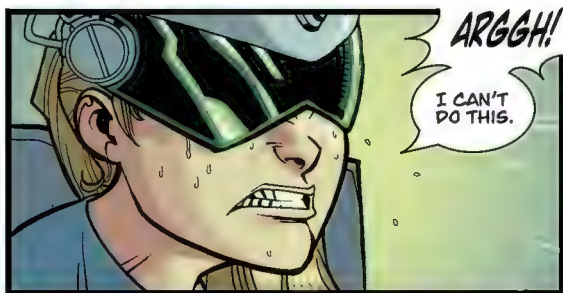
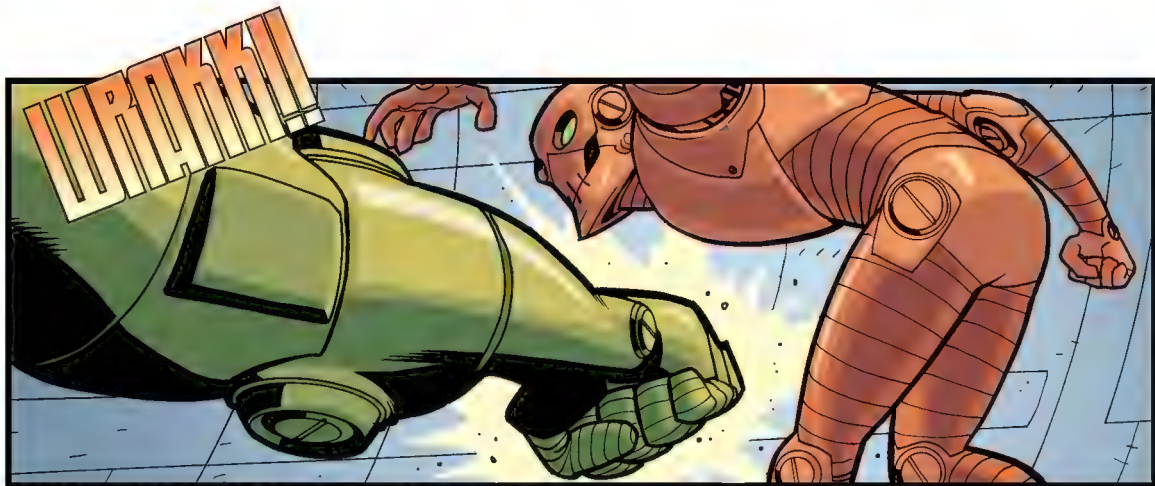
YOU JUST
NEED TO
CONCENTRATE
MORE--
FOCUS.

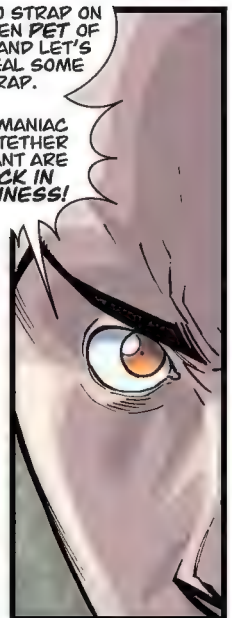
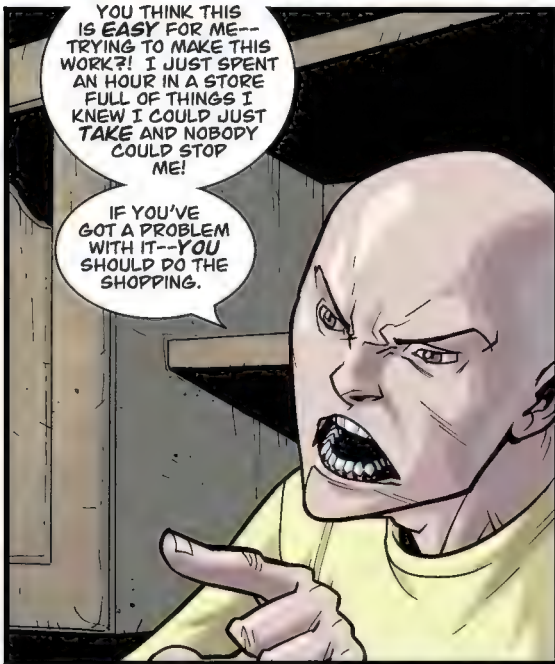
TRY TO
BLOCK OUT
EVERYTHING YOUR
PHYSICAL BODY IS
EXPERIENCING--
AND FOCUS ON THE
ROBOT, LIVE
THROUGH IT.

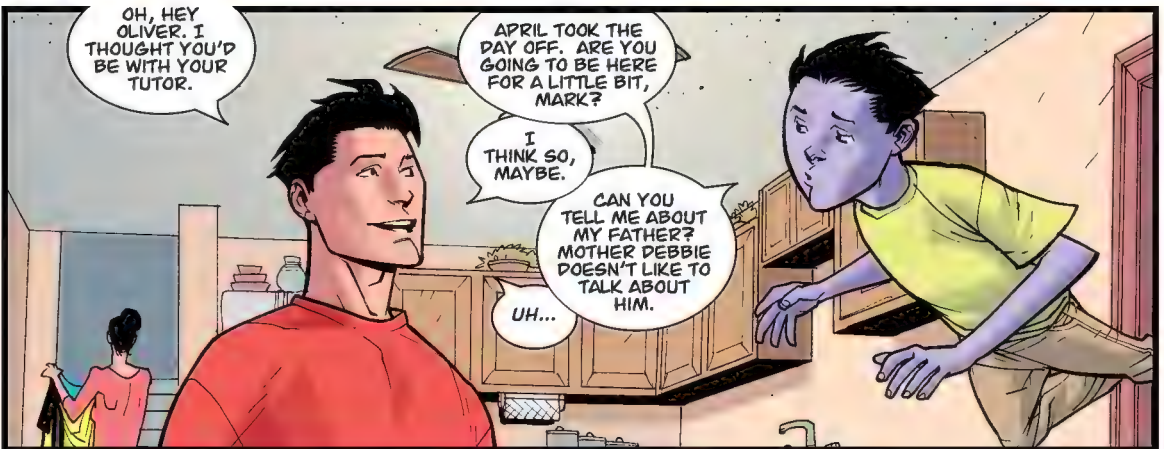
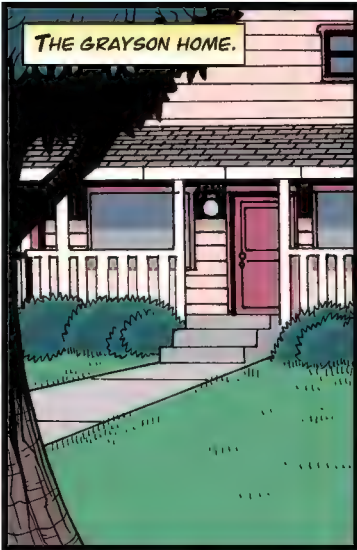


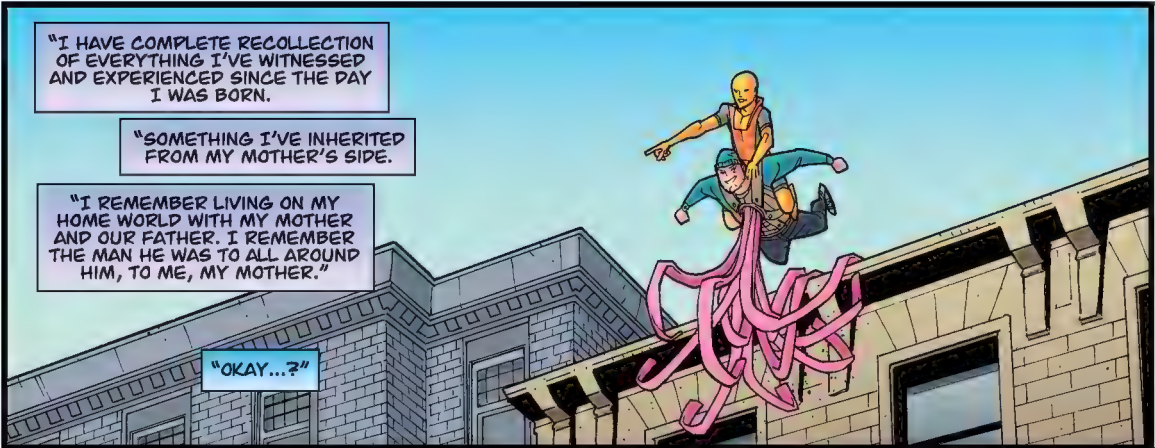
I DON'T
KNOW... IT'S
SO HARD.









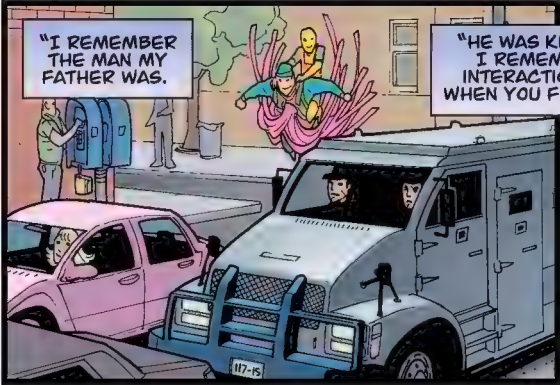


"I HAVE COMPLETE RECOLLECTION OF EVERYTHING I'VE WITNESSED AND EXPERIENCED SINCE THE DAY I WAS BORN.

"SOMETHING I'VE INHERITED FROM MY MOTHER'S SIDE.

"I REMEMBER LIVING ON MY HOME WORLD WITH MY MOTHER AND OUR FATHER. I REMEMBER THE MAN HE WAS TO ALL AROUND HIM, TO ME, MY MOTHER."

"OKAY...?"

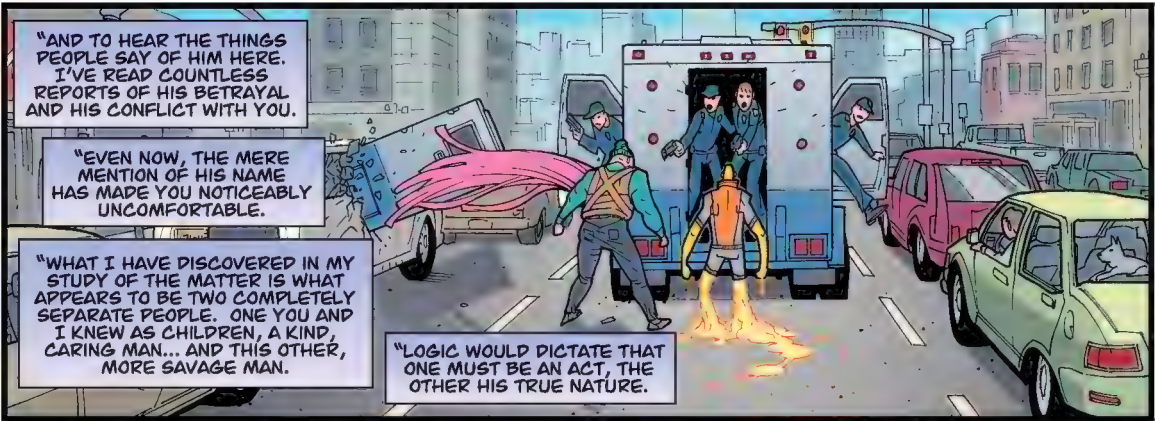


"I REMEMBER THE MAN MY FATHER WAS.

"HE WAS KIND, CARING, I REMEMBER YOUR INTERACTION WITH HIM WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED.



"I DO NOT RECALL EVER HAVING REASON TO FEAR THE MAN.



"AND TO HEAR THE THINGS PEOPLE SAY OF HIM HERE. I'VE READ COUNTLESS REPORTS OF HIS BETRAYAL AND HIS CONFLICT WITH YOU.

"EVEN NOW, THE MERE MENTION OF HIS NAME HAS MADE YOU NOTICEABLY UNCOMFORTABLE.

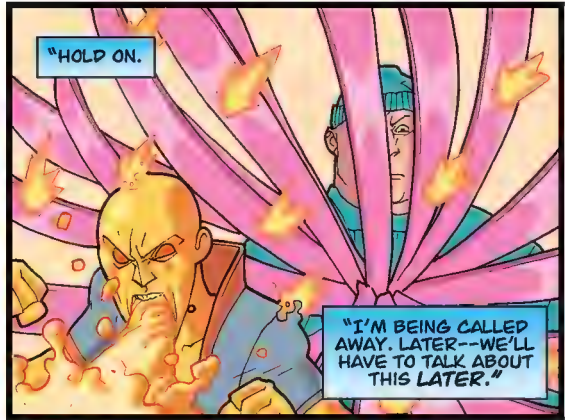
"WHAT I HAVE DISCOVERED IN MY STUDY OF THE MATTER IS WHAT APPEARS TO BE TWO COMPLETELY SEPARATE PEOPLE. ONE YOU AND I KNEW AS CHILDREN, A KIND, CARING MAN... AND THIS OTHER, MORE SAVAGE MAN.

"LOGIC WOULD DICTATE THAT ONE MUST BE AN ACT, THE OTHER HIS TRUE NATURE.



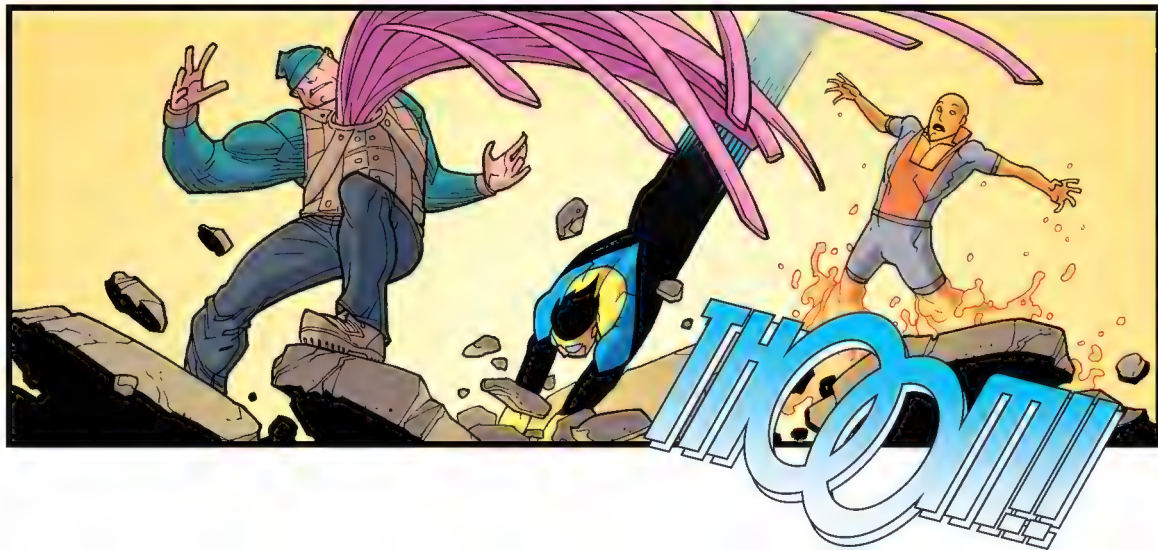
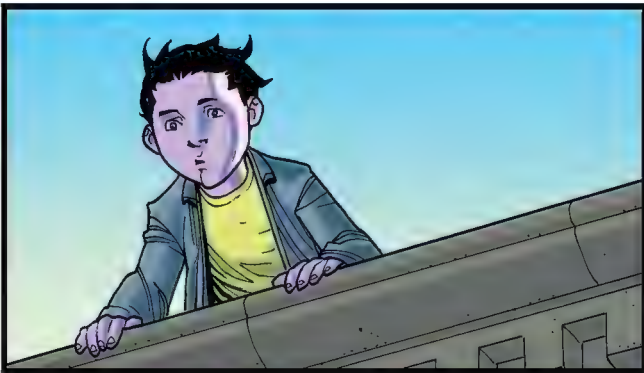
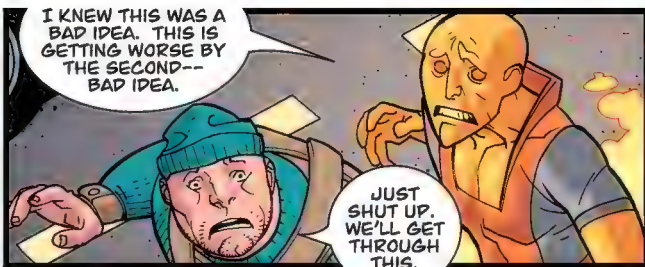
"WHICH ONE DO YOU THINK IS THE REAL VERSION OF OUR FATHER?"

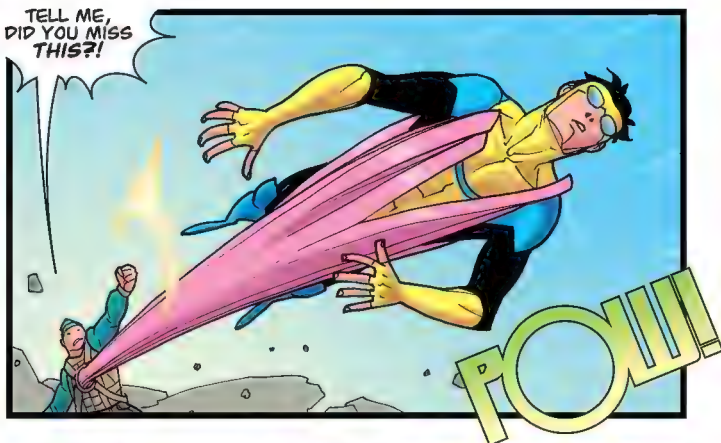
"OLIVER, REALLY, I--



"HOLD ON.

"I'M BEING CALLED AWAY. LATER--WE'LL HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THIS LATER."

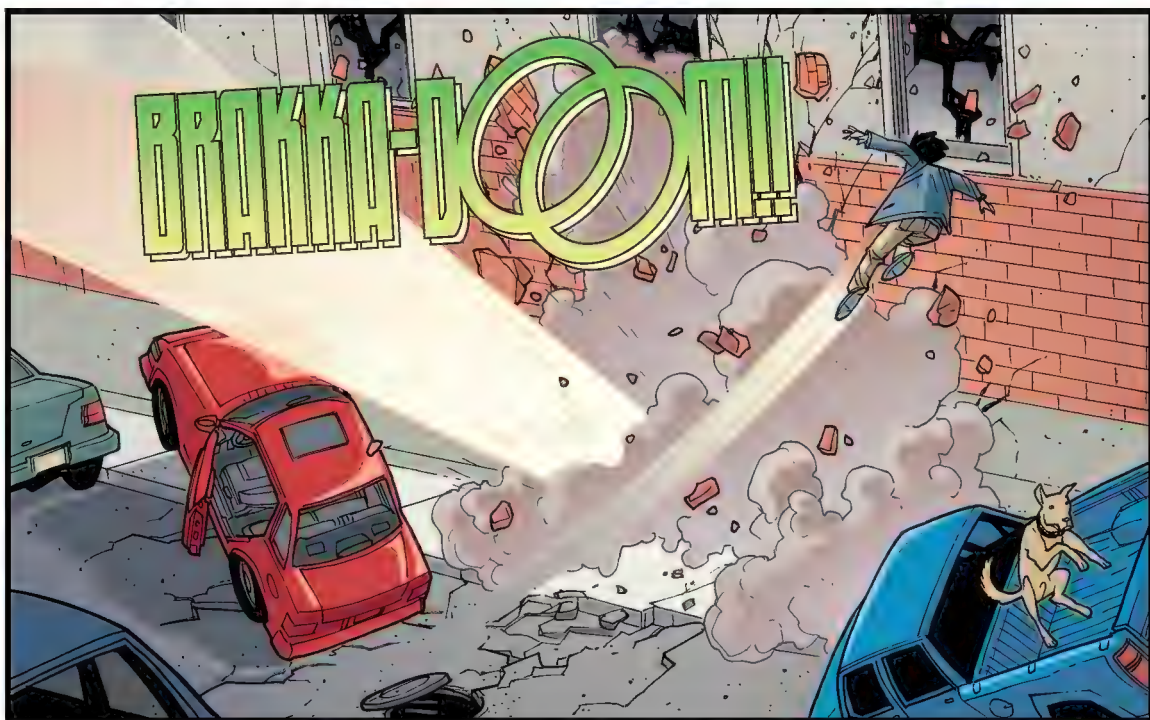


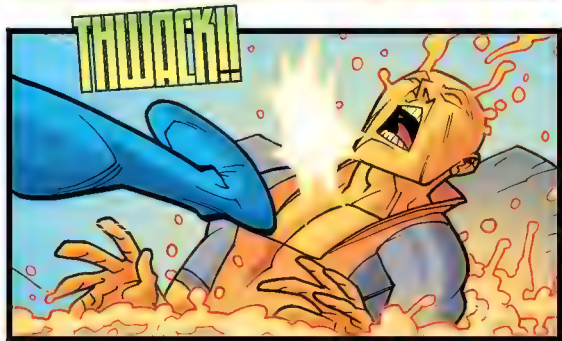


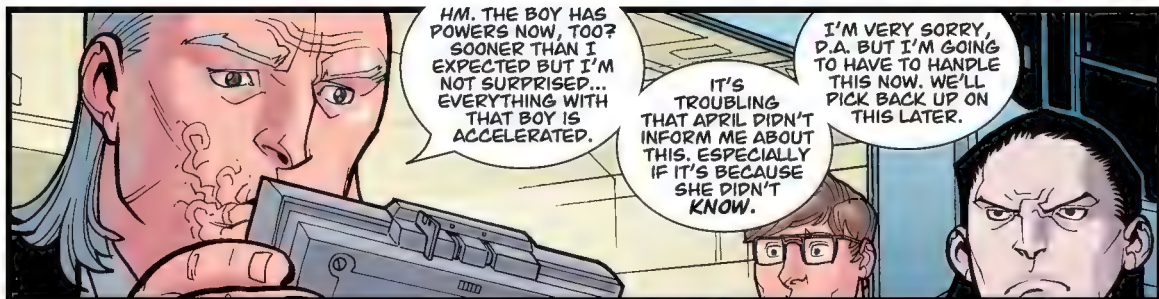
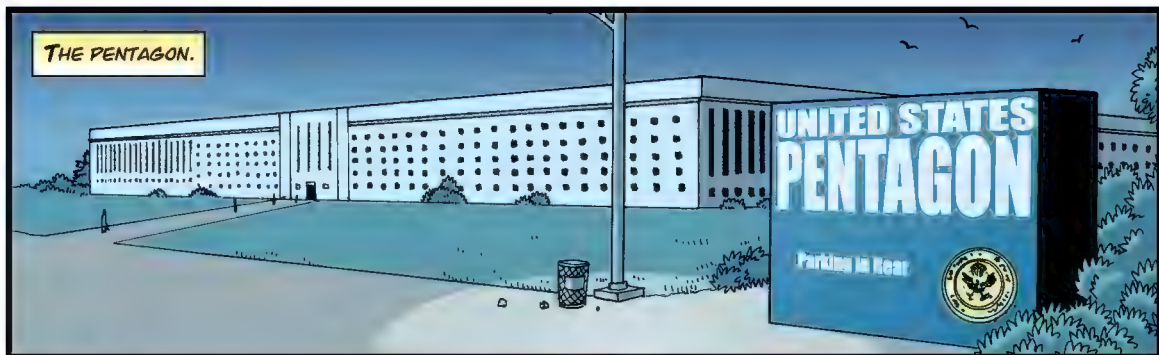


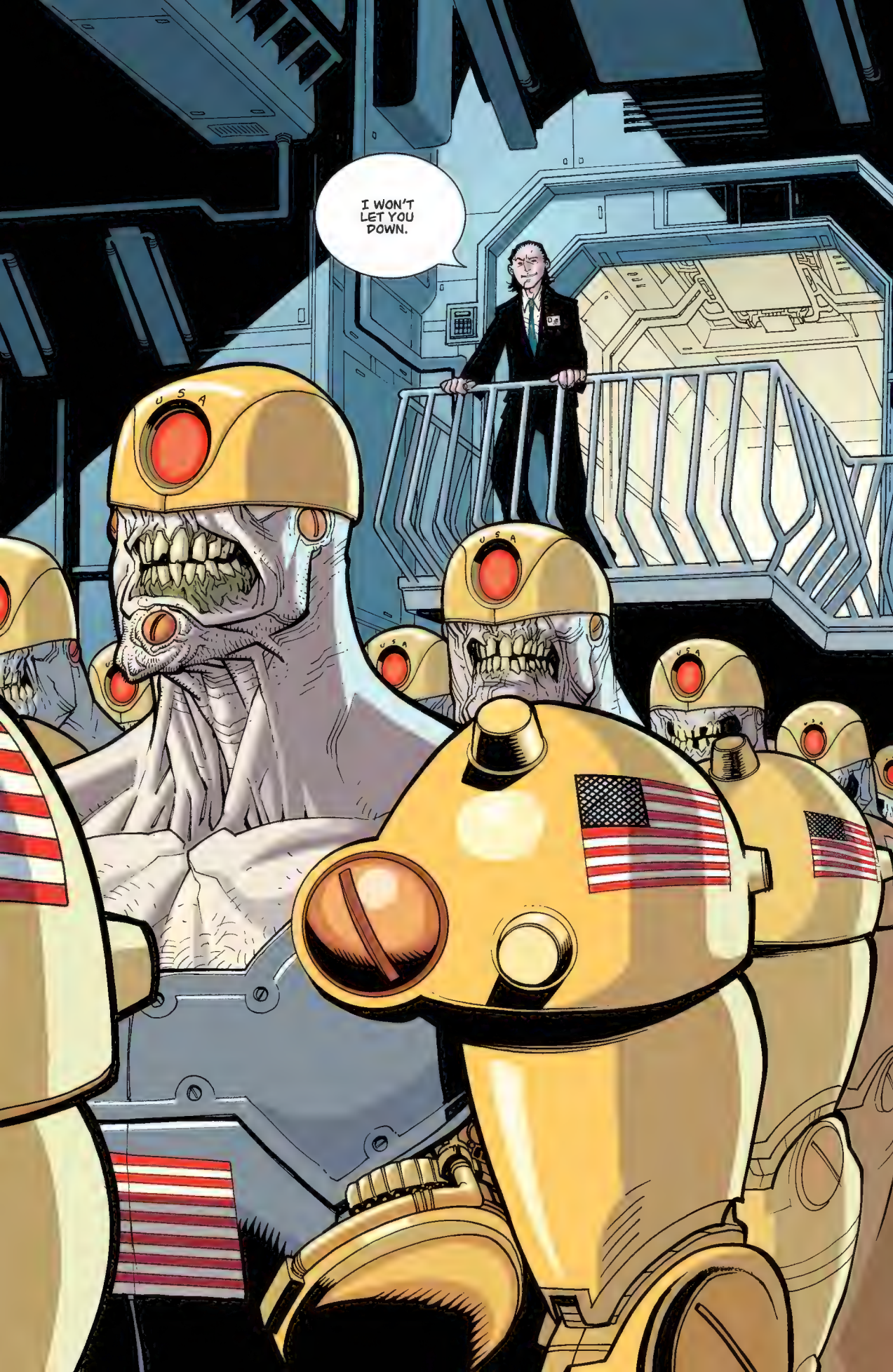


OLIVER--
MOVE!









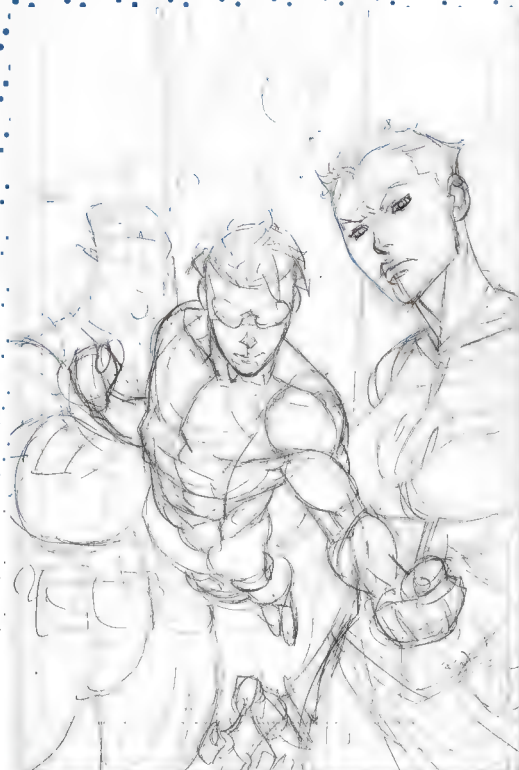
I WON'T
LET YOU
DOWN.

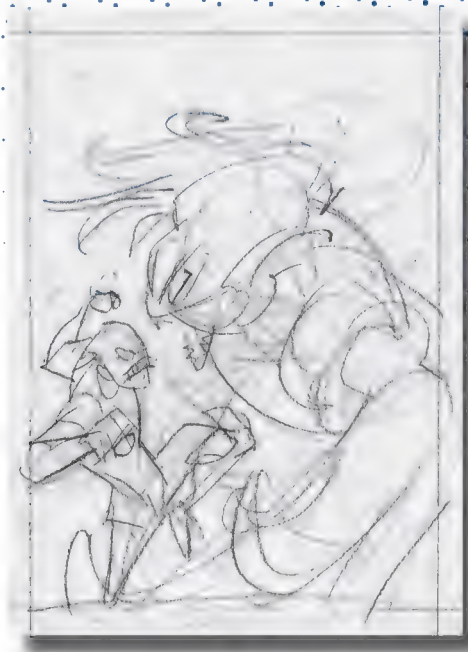


SKETCHBOOK

ROBERT KIRKMAN: On this page you'll find Ryan's pencils and inks for the cover of this volume. I've got nothing to say about it other than "isn't it awesome." Ryan? Any stories?

RYAN OTTLEY: *Stories about drawing this cover? Heck yes I got stories! The funniest thing happened while drawing this cover. Man it was crazy.*





KIRKMAN: Here's the initial sketch for the cover to 42, featuring Octoboss — and the final sketch for the cover. Originally, I'd asked Ryan for a cool shot of Mark fighting Octoboss because I love that guy — and he appears in the issue. Then I came up with the idea of having the cover be a backgroundless figure with tons of copy.

OTTLEY: I was having the worst kind of artist block during this cover. I absolutely hated it. It's just a figure on a white background but this thing took me about 20 tries. And no we are not going to print my huge amount of failures. Some things are too embarrassing to show. I was definitely wishing we stuck to the first drawing with octoboss in there. I'm still not completely happy with the final drawing but I feel that way with a lot of my art when I look back on it.

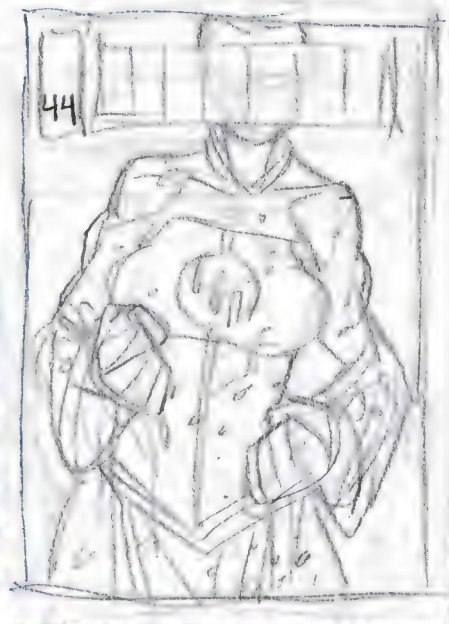




KIRKMAN: So, funny story. For the cover to 43, Ryan was on the phone asking me what happens in the issue and what we should do for the cover... and I said "I don't know — have Mark and Allen sitting on the moon talking." Because I thought that would be a cool image. After sending in the sketches that appear on this page, Ryan said "can't we have some action on this cover?" This resulted in Allen fighting Immortal on the cover — and it totally helped me shape the story into something cool. Collaboration, folks.

OTTLEY: Yeah the sketches for the cover show my sorry attempts at trying to make this situation interesting. Maybe there is an artist alive who can make two dudes sitting on the moon look cool but I ain't the guy. Pretty boring idea, Robert. I'm glad I bugged him for more ideas, I loved doing the Immortal and Allen upside down fight, which was all Robert's idea. I dug it!

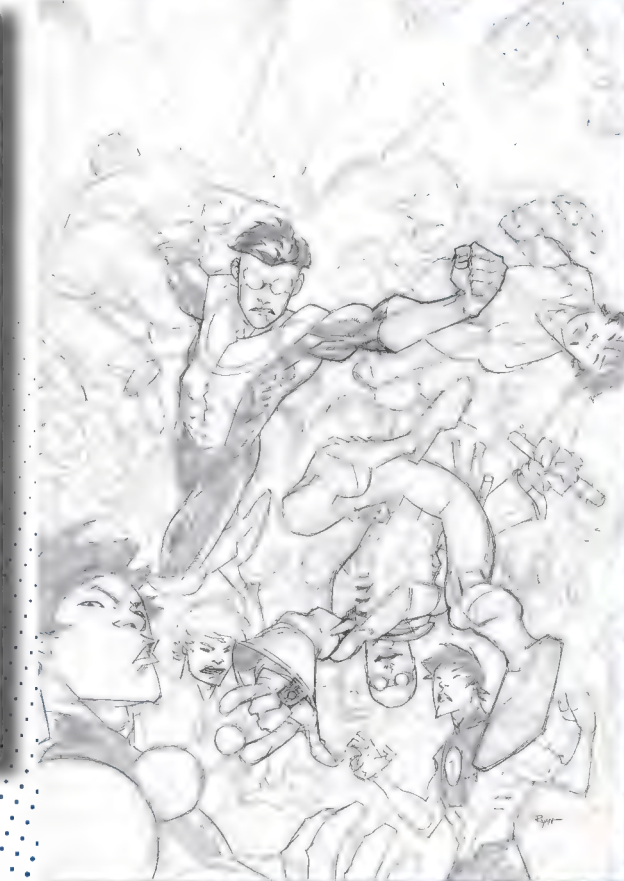
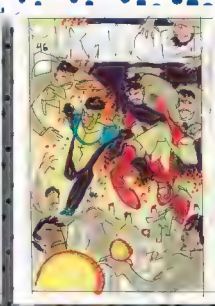
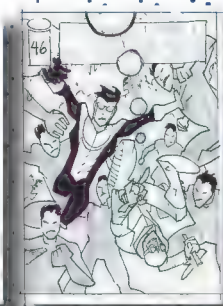
KIRKMAN: Also on this page, the sketch and pencils for the cover of issue 44.

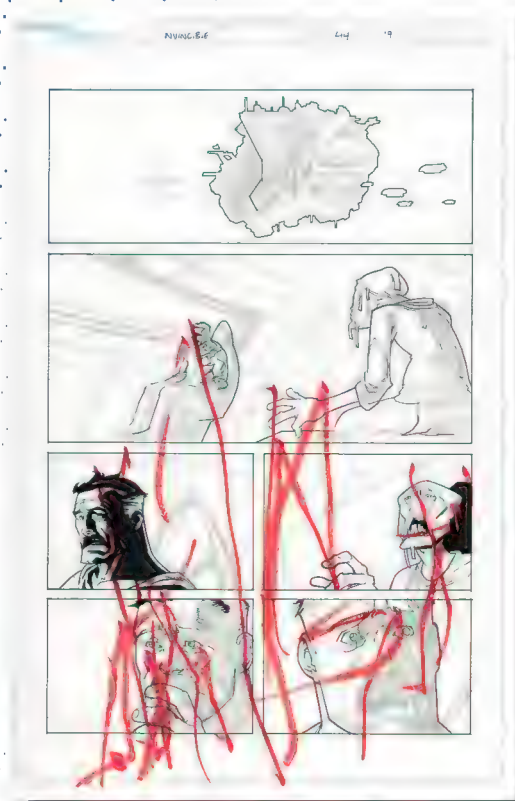




KIRKMAN: An unused sketch for the cover to issue 45... don't remember why we didn't go with this? Maybe because I didn't want to give away that Allen gets taken captive in this issue? I think that was it. Also, pencils for the cover to issues 46 and 47 and some sketches for the cover to 46. Rex looks awesome when he poses like... that.

OTTLEY: The 45 sketch was basically a spoiler, so Robert asked me to make Anissa and Allen fighting instead. The cover to 46 was a lot of fun. It's the first time I got to draw Rex Splode with his new robotic hand that fires little explosives. I actually called Robert and asked him if it was cool if I made Rex's hand look just like.....when someone says "I love you" in sign language. He thought that was a cool idea, we are both huge fans of love, so it seemed appropriate.





KIRKMAN: Pencils and inks for page 19 of issue 45...and also Ryan's son's first published work. Tell the story, Ryan! Tell the story!

OTTLEY: I work in an office away from home now, too many distractions and a kid that wants to draw on everything at home. There really isn't too much to the story. I had to run to the bathroom and i forgot to lock the door to my room. My son Quentin who is 2 years old, grabbed a red marker and went to town. I wasn't the proudest father when i saw his soon to be first published work but I got over it. Now I'm working on trying to get over him drawing with a permanent marker all over my computer chair and the neighbor's new couch. Not cool Quentin, but keep drawing.

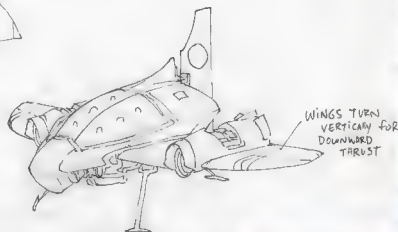
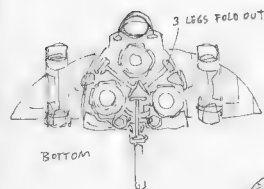
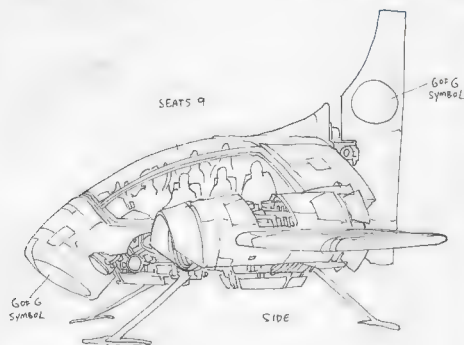
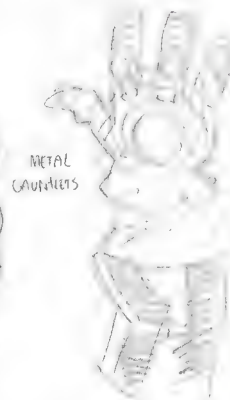
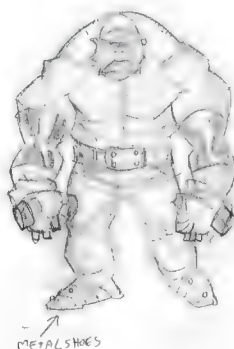


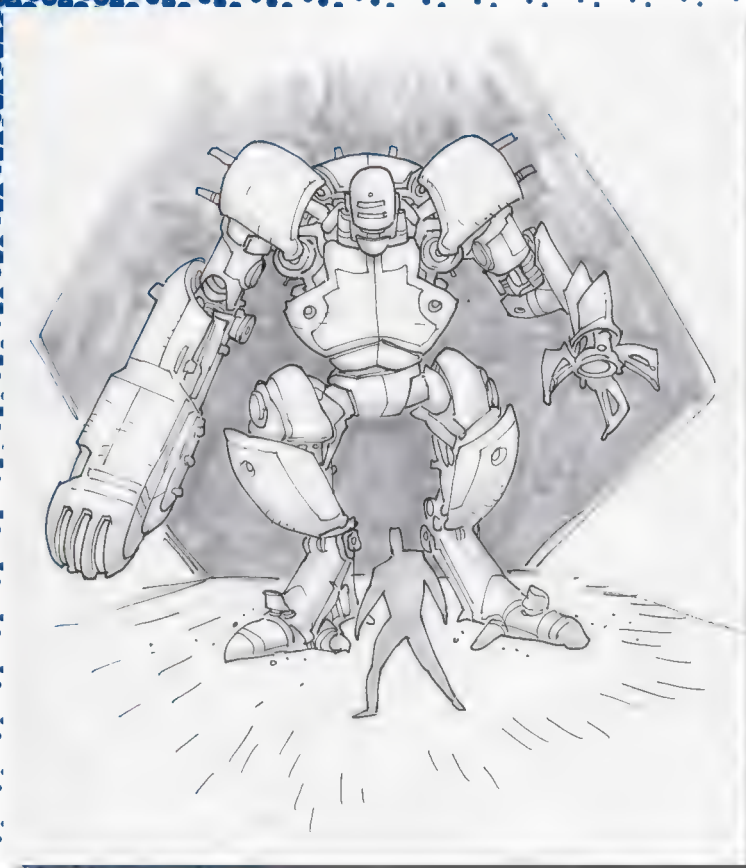
BIG OL'
BRASS KNUCKLES



KIRKMAN: Ryan's first pass at "THE GIANT" which I deemed "not cool enough" and his final design which I deemed "totally awesome." Also on this page — a vehicle for The Guardians of the Globe. I thought it high time they got a cool ride — now I just need to show it again other than in issue 42.

OTTLEY: And I want to draw that ship again, I'll tweak it up a bit too. It'll look like their ship keeps getting parts upgraded but in reality it's just me trying to learn and make things look better. It all works out.





KIRKMAN: Ryan's robot design for issue 46. Also, the designs for Dropkick and Fightmaster--a cool duo we're bound to see more of eventually. I wanted them to look like a really feminine version of Eddy Vedder... just for fun. Ryan really nailed that look.

OTTLEY: They look nothing like Eddie Vedder. I suck. And the robot looks nothing like the robot that was drawn in 46. I sometimes change my designs when i draw them in the book because I feel the design needs a tweak OR I don't want to search for my designs in a stack of papers. That can't be considered lazy though, because work is work. So there.





← REDDISH BROWN



METAL

THICK
LEATHER-LIKE
MATERIAL



SAME COLOR
GLOVES FOR
BOTH
CHARACTERS

KIRKMAN: Here's some color designs of Dropkick and Fightmaster as well as the designs for Nolan's prison garb.

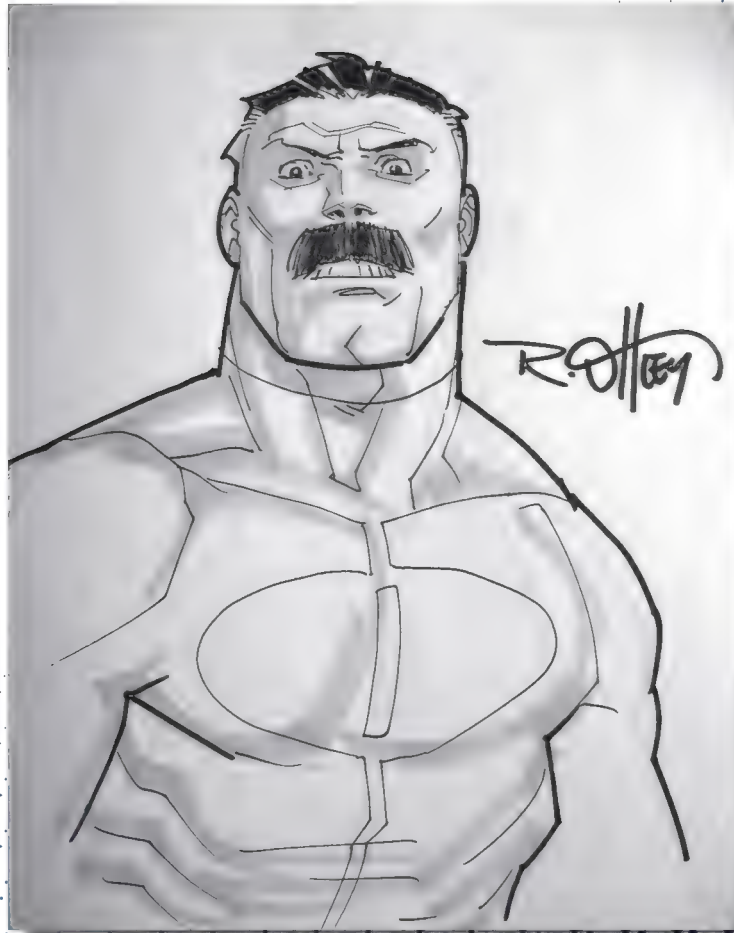
OTTLEY: I'll do color designs more often. I love designing from start to finish, fun stuff. Can't wait to see more of Nolan!



KIRKMAN: Awesome colored commission of Invincible. What was this done for, Ryan?

OTTLEY: You just answered your own question. It's a commission for a guy. Jeez Robert, get some sleep.

KIRKMAN: I can't, some jerk keeps asking me for more script!



KIRKMAN: Some sweet con-sketches by Ryan. Invincible with a mustache (which I think is becoming a popular request — Ryan?) and an Omni-Man with a mustache. I think I'm going to request an Omni-Man WITHOUT a mustache next time I see Ryan at a con.

OTLEY: Hell, I'd draw him in a dress if it made you happy. I draw a few Invincible mustaches, along with an occasional Allen mustache at cons.



KIRKMAN: The Immortal as Abraham Lincoln, con sketch by Ryan. What an inspired suggestion from Cory Walker... I take no credit for the Lincoln/Immortal thing — brilliant. Also, Green Ghost by Ryan. Ryan does some of the best con sketches in the biz.

OTTLEY: Thanks Robert. A mustacheless Nolan in a dress is in the mail.

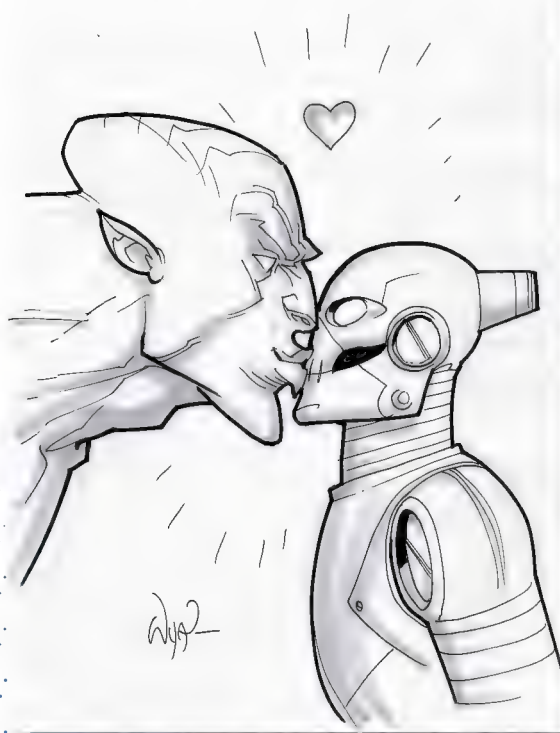
KIRKMAN: This better not just be a joke for the sketchbook section — I'll be checking my mail every day... looking for this drawing, specifically.





KIRKMAN: More con sketches. Komodo Dragon (R.I.P.), Science Dog, and Monster Girl and Robot in a scene I am now DYING to work into the book.

OTLEY: Yeah I thought that Monster girl and Robot sketch idea was pure gold. I actually paid the guy who asked me to draw it because the idea was so good. Not really. I think I might've charged him double for drawing two head sketches in one. Also, I apologize to Cory Walker and all those people that I drew Science dog for, I had no reference to look at and I really haven't drawn him all that much so it wasn't a spot on rendition.





KIRKMAN: Con sketches of Allen... who is most people's favorite character in the book. I really should use him more.

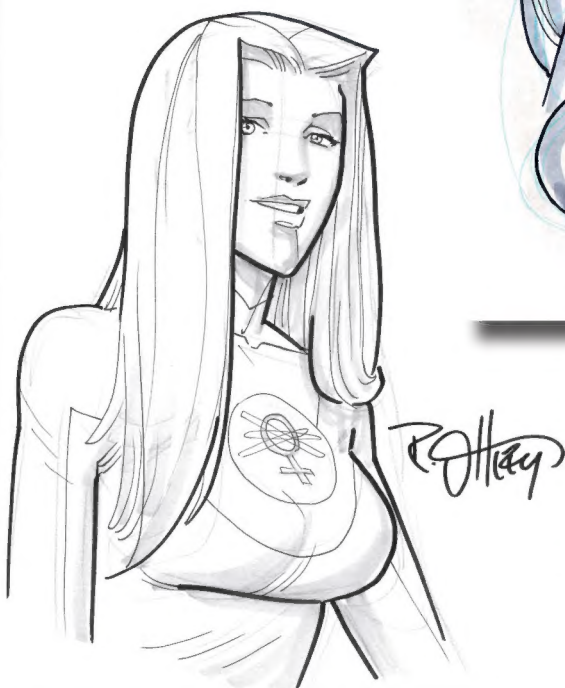
OTTLEY: Yeah you should. Allen is the 3rd most requested character at cons. People are dying to know more about the whole Nolan/Allen space thing. We need another ALL Allen issue like issue 23. I loved that issue.

KIRKMAN: Very funny — you know another all-Allen issue is coming up very soon.

To RYAN —

R. Otley



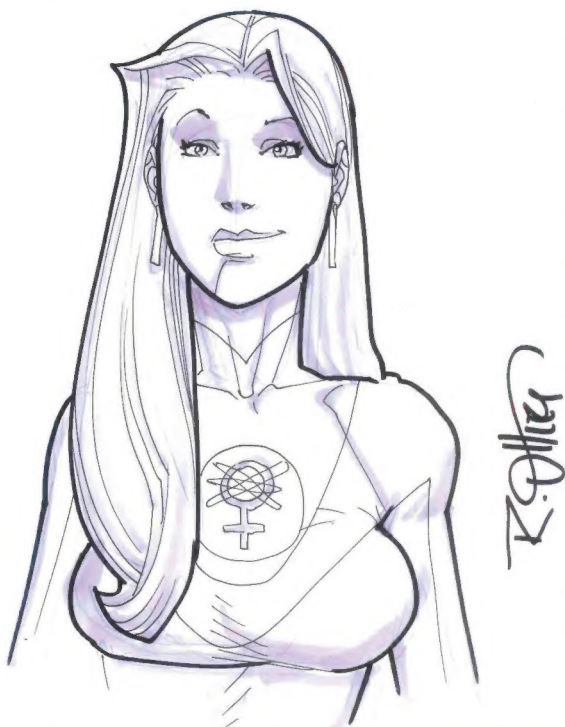


KIRKMAN: And we'll leave you with three con sketches of Atom Eve... another fan-favorite. Ryan... you do a lot of these, huh? Interesting that they're all from the bust up. You ever thought about just doing a head sketch of her... just to see if the fan asks you to keep drawing until he gets what he's really after?

OTTLEY: HA! maybe I should charge more for breasts. Eve is the second character I draw the most at cons. Invincible is of course the first. I really don't mind though, so if you see me at a con go ahead and ask for whatever character you want, it's all fun for me. And the breasts are free, I just decided.

KIRKMAN: And we'll leave you with that, folks. Thanks for reading!

OTTLEY: Thanks everybody! See you later.



MORE GREAT BOOKS FROM ROBERT KIRKMAN & IMAGE COMICS!

BATTLE POPE

VOL. 1: GENESIS TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-572-8

\$12.95

VOL. 2: MAYHEM TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-529-2

\$12.99

VOL. 3: PILLOW TALK TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-677-0

\$12.99

VOL. 4: WRATH OF GOD TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-751-7

\$9.99

BRIT

VOL. 1: OLD SOLDIER TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-656-5

\$14.99

CAPIES

VOL. 1:

PUNCHING THE CLOCK TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-656-5

\$17.99

CLOUDFALL

GRAPHIC NOVEL

\$6.95

REAPER

GRAPHIC NOVEL

\$6.95

TECH JACKET

VOL. 1:

THE BOY FROM EARTH TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-771-5

FULL COLOR • \$14.99

TALES OF THE REALM

HARDCOVER

ISBN: 978-1-58240-426-0

\$34.95

TRADE PAPERBACK

ISBN: 978-1-58240-394-6

\$14.95

INVINCIBLE

VOL. 1:

FAMILY MATTERS TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-711-1

\$12.99

VOL. 2:

EIGHT IS ENOUGH TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-347-2

\$12.95

VOL. 3:

PERFECT STRANGERS TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-915-5

\$12.95

VOL. 4:

HEAD OF THE CLASS TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-440-2

\$14.95

VOL. 5:

THE FACTS OF LIFE TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-554-4

\$14.99

VOL. 6:

A DIFFERENT WORLD TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-579-4

\$14.99

VOL. 7:

THREE'S COMPANY TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-656-5

\$14.99

VOL. 8:

MY FAVORITE MARTIAN TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-656-5

\$14.99

ULTIMATE COLLECTION,

VOL. 1 HC

ISBN 978-1-58240-500-1

\$34.95

ULTIMATE COLLECTION,

VOL. 2 HC

ISBN: 978-1-58240-594-0

\$34.99

ULTIMATE COLLECTION,

VOL. 3 HC

ISBN: 978-1-58240-763-0

\$34.99

THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF

THE INVINCIBLE

UNIVERSE TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-831-6

\$12.99

THE WALKING DEAD

VOL. 1:

DAYS GONE BY TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-672-8

\$9.99

VOL. 2:

MILES BEHIND US TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-413-4

\$12.95

VOL. 3:

SAFETY BEHIND BARS TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-487-5

\$12.95

VOL. 4:

THE HEART'S DESIRE TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-530-8

\$12.99

VOL. 5:

THE BEST DEFENSE TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-612-1

\$12.99

VOL. 6:

THIS SORROWFUL LIFE TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-684-8

\$12.99

VOL. 7:

THE CALM BEFORE TP

ISBN: 978-1-58240-828-6

\$12.99

BOOK ONE HC

ISBN: 978-1-58240-619-0

\$29.99

BOOK TWO HC

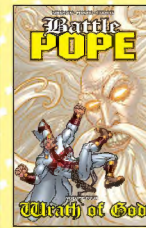
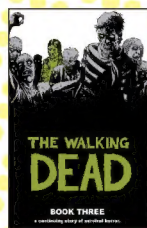
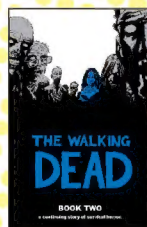
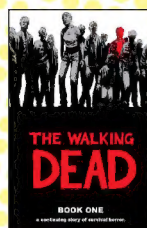
ISBN: 978-1-58240-759-3

\$29.99

BOOK THREE HC

ISBN: 978-1-58240-825-5

\$29.99



TO FIND YOUR NEAREST COMIC BOOK STORE, CALL:

1-888-COMIC-BOOK

THE WALKING DEAD™, BRIT™ & CAPIES™ © 2008 Robert Kirkman.

INVINCIBLE™ © 2008 Robert Kirkman and Gary Walker.

BATTLE POPE™ © 2008 Robert Kirkman and Tony Moore.

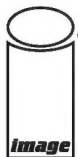
TECH JACKET™ & CLOUDFALL™ © 2008 Robert Kirkman and E.J. Su.

REAPER™ and © 2008 Cliff Rathburn.

TALES OF THE REALM™, MY FAVORITE MARTIAN, L.L.C. © 2008 Matt Turner & Val Staples.

Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.





Another chapter in the life of Invincible! Allen the Alien comes to Earth for a visit, seeking details on Invincible's confrontation with his father. Anissa, an agent of the Viltrum Empire is also looking for answers, and she's not going to ask nicely. Tempers flare and fists fly as events are set in motion, leading to a future battle of cosmic proportions!

This volume collects issues 42-47 of the Eisner Nominated series.

Page 2